Hafa Adai!

Number of Saipan houses-for-rent expected to go up. PAGE 3
Stellar Marianas, TSL Foundation team up for Miss U bid. PAGE 5

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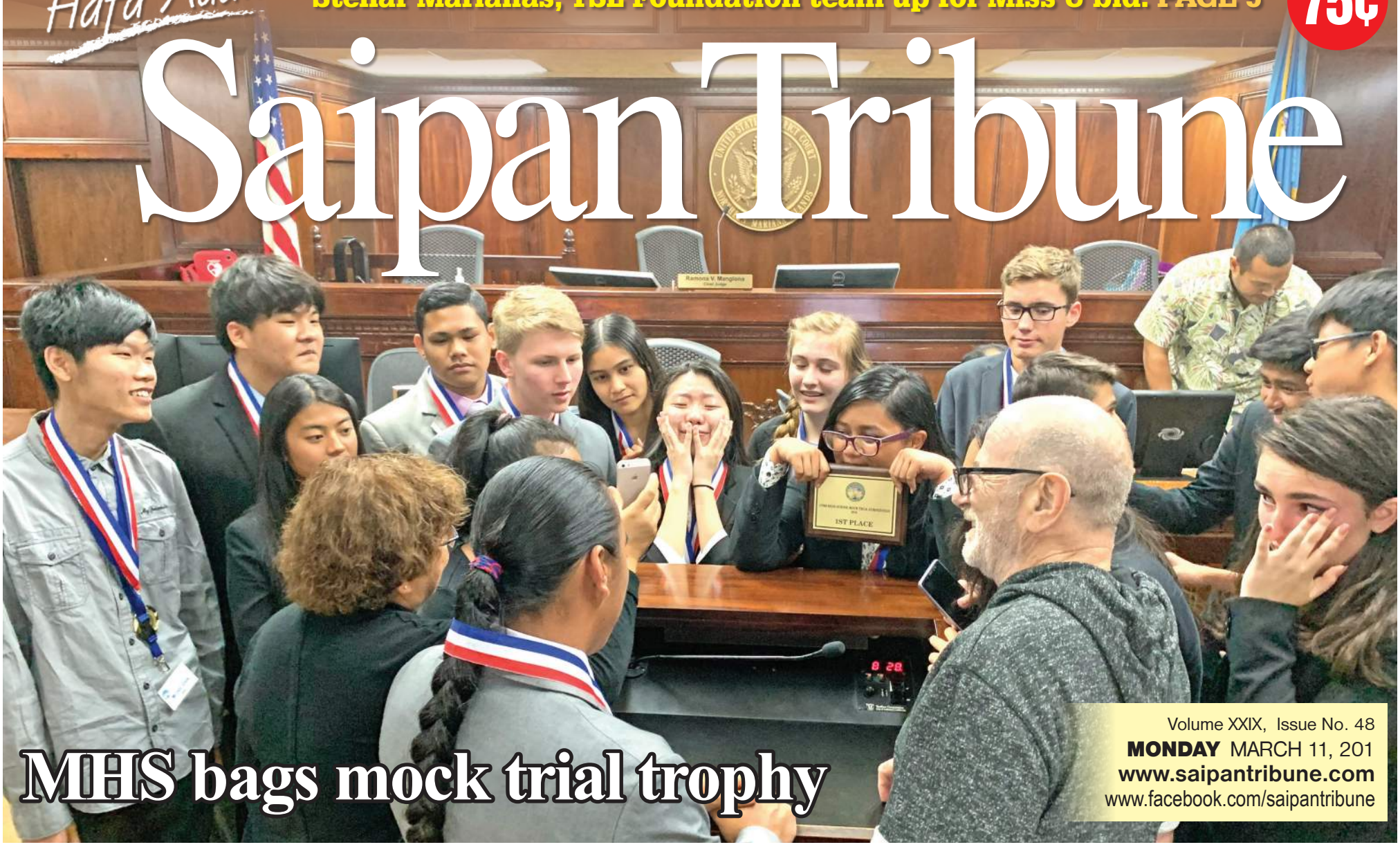
Saipan Tribune



MHS bags mock trial trophy

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By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas High School mock trial team bested four other high schools and won their first mock trial competition, earning them the opportunity to represent their school and the entire CNMI in the upcoming statewide National Mock Trial competition in Georgia.

Last Friday, the MHS mock trial team came head to head with the Mount Carmel School team in the championship round of the 21st Annual CNMI Mock Trial competition and broke the private school's three-year winning streak.

Aside from MCS, MHS also

See MHS on Page 4

The Marianas High School mock trial team huddle up after an emotional victory after the awarding ceremony of the 21st Annual CNMI Mock Trial competition last Friday. KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

IN CONTRACT TO SUPPLY $690K GENERATOR TO ROTA

CUC affirms IBCM selection

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors has re-affirmed the electric power emergency declaration on Rota and approved the selection of International Bridge and Construction Marianas Inc. to procure and deliver a 1.8-megawatt generator set worth $690,000, including shipping cost.

This was in response to CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho's request for the board to reaffirm the emergency declaration and the approval of the selection of IBCM to supply the generator.

Manglona

The request was approved Tuesday by board chair Miranda V. Manglona, vice chair Weston Thomas Deleon Guerrero, secretary Jovita SN. Paulino, treasurer Matthew J. Holley, and Commonwealth Development Authority representative Ignacio I. Perez.

In an interview last Friday, Manglona said the board's approval signals to the procurement committee to go ahead and expedite

See CUC on Page 4

Camacho

Camacho OK'd for 2 more years

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors unanimously approved Friday to renew the two-year employment contract of Gary P. Camacho as CUC's executive director.

Board treasurer Matthew Holley made the motion to approve Camacho's new contract, but subject to verifying approval consistent with the federal court's stipulated order.

See CAMACHO on Page 4

NMI gets at least 10 awards at TBMF

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The annual Tumon Bay Music Festival concluded over the weekend with Saipan getting at least 10 awards after besting some participating Guam schools.

The 2019 TBMF last Saturday

See NMI on Page 4

INSIDE

ASIA
Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohamad said that China should define its "ownership" in the South China Sea.

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FOCUS
Little by little and town by town, local journalism is dying in plain sight.

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LIFE & STYLE
R. Kelly blames his ex-wife for "destroying" his name and claims other people stole from him.

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Local

FEMA approves NMI request for permanent home construction

Super Typhoon Yutu struck the islands of saipan and Tinian on Oct. 26, 2018, destroying 462 homes on Saipan and 70 on Tinian. Additionally, 317 homes on Saipan and 113 on Tinian were classified to be majorly damaged post-Yutu. On Oct. 27, 2018, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres received confirmation that the CNMI government's request for a major disaster declaration was approved by President Donald J. Trump, triggering federal assistance including various Individual Assistance programs for residents who were impacted by the super typhoon.

In the wake of Yutu, the ability of survivors to move forward with short and long-term housing plans continued to be challenged. While the Federal Emergency Management Agency persisted in working with the CNMI to support survivors through other housing options, FEMA determined that no other forms of Temporary Housing Assistance were accessible, feasible or cost-effective, and that the housing need exceeded resources available. To aid in the high demand for housing solutions, on Nov. 16, 2018, FEMA approved the CNMI's request for Permanent Housing Construction in the form of direct repair and new construction assistance.

Permanent Housing Construction is a unique FEMA Individual Assistance program, and as such, is a very rare opportunity presented to disaster survivors; often only offered in insular areas were commodities, resources and manpower are limited. Yutu survivors who are eligible for the PHC program are provided assistance in the form of brand-new constructed homes that will be built to standard with the CNMI's latest adopted International Building Codes, including a fully constructed concrete home featuring typhoon-proof shutters, backup water tanks and kitchens with the ability to be enclosed for security purposes. New construction is provided to each eligible resident in lieu of financial assistance from FEMA.

Upon FEMA's approval for PHC, FEMA immediately began contacting eligible survivors with program details and the option to accept or decline enrollment into the program. As PHC is limited to Real Property improvements, contents such as furniture and home appliances will not be provided, and as such, will be the responsibility of the homeowners who have chosen to opt-in into the PHC program. Electrical hook-ups required for appliance installation, however, will be made available by the contractor selected by FEMA, so that in the event homeowners have appliances ready for installation, the electrical outlets will be ready for use.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Evidence allegedly proves two more improper trips by Atalig

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government has disclosed that federal investigators discovered last week evidence of two more improper trips that Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig made.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI last Thursday about Atalig's alleged ninth and possibly 10th trips.

O'Malley said he has informed defense lawyer David George Banes that, in addition to two trips that will be heard at the March 12 trial, he will seek to introduce evidence of the two other trips.

The prosecutor said the U.S. government was previously aware that Atalig took these trips, but only last week discovered evidence of an improper purpose.

O'Malley said the U.S. government will come prepared to introduce this evidence, as well as evidence relating to the other trips, in support of its contention that they are all admissible as part of an ongoing scheme.

He said these trips are inextricably intertwined with that scheme, or alternatively, are admissible under Federal Rules of Evidence.

The new trial date in this case is June 4, 2019 at 10am.

Manglona set the hearing on Atalig's motion to exclude evidence relating to three trips for March 15 at 9am.

Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn M. Atalig, are indicted on five corruption charges for CNMI government-funded trips to California, Palau, Guam, and Saipan that were allegedly arranged under fraudulent pretenses.

The superseding indictment charged Efraim and Evelyn Atalig each with wire fraud, conspiracy, theft from program receiving federal funds, and false statements.

The charges involve at least five trips taken by the Ataligs in 2018.

The defendants pleaded not guilty of all charges.

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Number of Saipan houses-for-rent expected to go up

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista#@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The number of houses-for-rent on Saipan is expected to increase in the following year with an additional 119 units.

Jesse Palacios, administrator of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., said it is projected that CNMI would see an increase in the number of available homes for rent in the immediate future.

With two nearly completed projects and one that has already broken ground, the CNMI can expect about 119 additional homes for rent.

The two nearly completed projects are the Isa Villas and the Zen Homes; the Art Ridge project has already broken ground.

"Rental housing stock is increasing again with the projects we currently have," he said.

In the following five months, the community will have over 70 rental units available to them with the opening of the Isa Villas on Capital Hill and the Zen Homes opening in Gualo Rai.

Palacios said the Isa Villas is expected to open on May or June while the Zen Homes is expected to open a little later in September. Both projects are being developed with NMHC.

Isa Villas will offer 27 two-, three-, and four-bedroom units and Zen homes will offer 44 two-, three-, and four-bedroom units.

All units are open to the public with rental restrictions. Palacios said interested renters must meet a certain income threshhold to be eligible to rent a unit.

Units will cost around $600 to $800 to rent per month and will be open to Section 8 voucher holders.

Palacios said the Art Ridge housing project behind the Triple J Motors on Beach Road has already broken ground and an additional 48 two-bedroom units will be made available to the community by year 2020.

Palacios said all the units are for long-term renters. "They are not transitional. They are not meant for students or tourists. They are meant for families and community members," he said.

Kagman schools to have PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster of schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting on Tuesday, March 19, at 5:30pm in the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 if you have any questions or concerns. ***(PR)***

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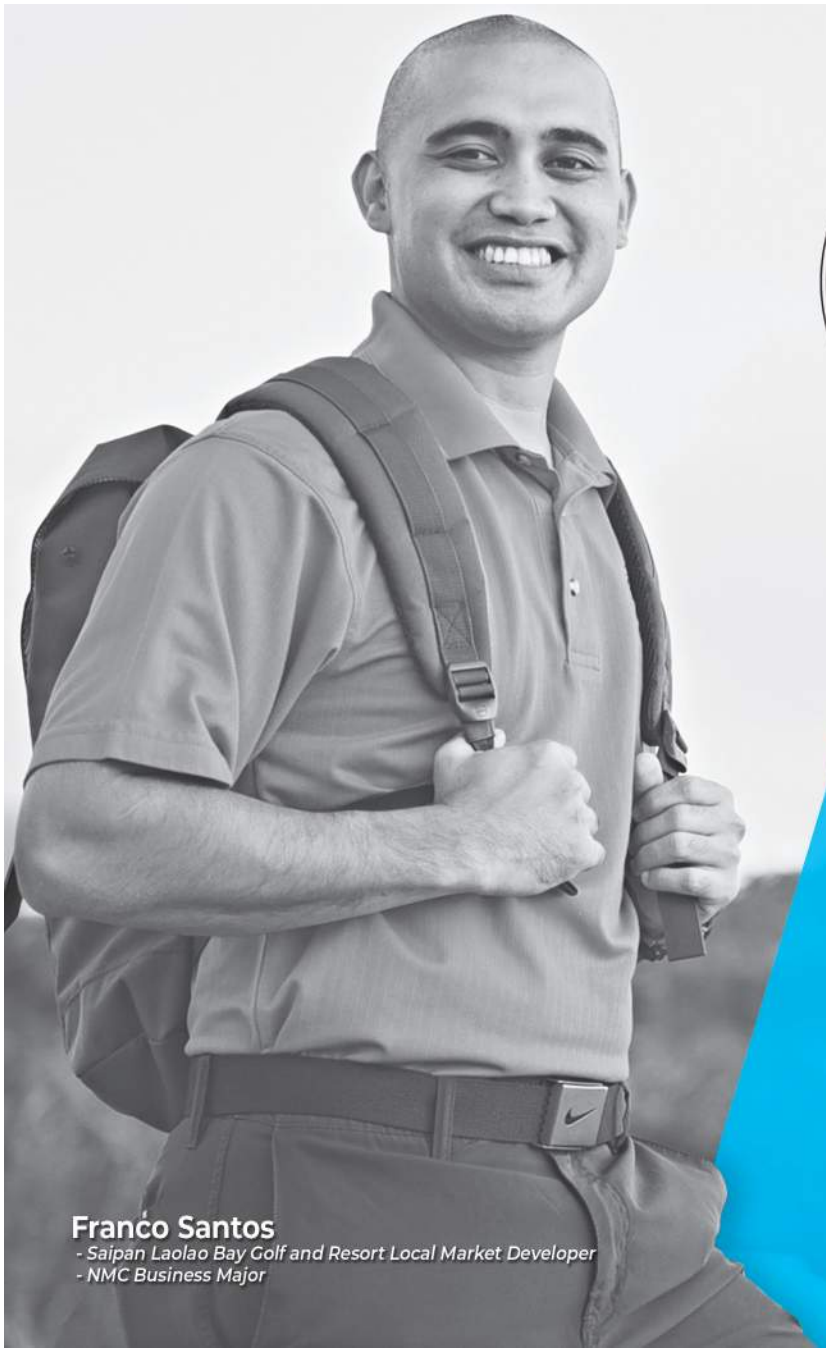
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MHS

From Page 1

topped Grace Christian Academy, Saipan International School, and Tinian Jr./Sr. High School.

Although MHS triumphed over MCS, there were no hard feelings and members of the MCS mock trial team even congratulated their winning rival after the awards ceremony.

The MHS mock trial team will travel to Athens, Georgia in May to participate in their first statewide national mock trial competition.

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig, lawyer Christopher Timmons, lawyer Michael Dotts, instructors Donald Cohen, and Barbara Sher coached the MHS team.

The Marianas High School mock trial team pose for a photo after winning the championship round of the 21st annual CNMI Mock Trial competition last Friday.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

"It's been a journey. We've been at this since Oct. 2 and it was five months of preparations for two days of trial and they did not miss a practice. They were there after school, on Saturdays. I owe this victory to them. I am speechless," said Cohen.

The mock trial's focus this year was the fictitious case of *Justin Pangelinan v. ForensiTech Inc.* In the fictitious case, Pangelinan, a minor and the only son of Alex Pangelinan, sustained serious injuries while attending ForensiTech science camp at the Northern Marianas College in Finasisu.

MHS played the role of prosecutor during the championship round, while MCS played the role of defense.

MHS prosecuting attorney Shea Hartig was overjoyed following their win and said the six years of hard work she has invested in mock trial competitions finally paid off.

"It feels like the thing that I spent the past six years of my life working on has finally paid off," she said.

Hartig said she does not know what to expect as she and her team enters the national mock trial competition, but she is excited for the experience they will have.

Hartig credited a lot of their success to her father and lawyer coach for not just the time he invested in coaching her and her team, but also for the amount of support and encouragement he gave her.

"My dad is the best part of every competition like this… and the best words I can hear from all of this isn't 'You won' but 'I'm proud of you' and that's what I got from my dad, so that meant a lot," she said.

Hartig was honorably mentioned as the best defense attorney, while the best prosecution attorney honorable mention was given to Reica Ramirez of MCS.

The Supreme Court Professionalism Award honorable mention went to MCS.

CAMACHO

From Page 1

That allowed a 15-day extension of Camacho's employment contract. That would give time for the Office of the Attorney General to review the federal court's stipulated orders and communicate with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency if there is a need for U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter to sign off on Camacho's renewal.

In February 2017, Carter approved Camacho's appointment as executive director.

Camacho's contract supposedly expires today, Monday.

CUC chair Miranda V. Manglona, vice chair Weston Thomas Deleon Guerrero, secretary Jovita SN. Paulino, and Commonwealth Development Authority representative Ignacio I. Perez all voted "yes" to the renewal of Camacho's contract.

The directors made the vote after raising some questions with Camacho during Friday's executive session that lasted over two hours. Attorney General Edward Manibusan himself was present as CUC's legal counsel at the executive session and at the meeting.

Manglona later said in an interview that there is no increase or decrease in the executive director's salary as there are no changes to the contract.

Under the previous contract, Camacho was receiving $150,000 per annum.

Camacho thanked the board for its vote of confidence in his capacity as executive director.

Camacho also expressed appreciation to the management and all CUC staff, saying he couldn't have done his job without them, particularly when Typhoon Soudelor, Typhoon Mangkhut, and Super Typhoon Yutu hit the CNMI.

"I totally appreciate everything that everybody does. Everybody. Nobody missed my appreciation," he said.

Camacho vowed to do his best and become better.

In offering the motion to the board, Holley said he knows that some of the board directors feel that they should merely rubber stamp their approval on Camacho's contract and move on.

"I think our duty requires us to spend considerable consideration. I hope my words are taken not as an insult but an opportunity to grow," said Holley.

He expressed concerns over the recent loss of several key management personnel and reports that some staff are afraid to speak up for fear of losing their job.

Holley noted that CUC lost several key personnel in the past few months and expressed hope that CUC will improve on its ability to hold on to key personnel.

"There is no dispute in that. I think there is some dispute as to why they left," he said. "That is the topic that as a board we need to be mindful."

Holley said they have seen a lot of letters of support from CUC staff but there is a difference between choosing to write one's own letter of support to being asked to write a letter of support.

Holley underscored the need for the board to have a better understanding of the relationship between management and staff.

"We, as a board, need to do better," he added.

Holley acknowledged that the executive director is an extremely difficult position, that managing a corporation with over 400 employees "is a huge task."

He said the position and every decision is scrutinized.

"I congratulate CUC, the whole team, with Gary Camacho at the helm, for getting us through massive, devastating natural disasters," he said.

Under Camacho as executive director, Holley said, they have seen an improved relationship with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Justice, who are also scrutinizing CUC.

"No doubt there have been many achievements—the implementation of the prepaid meter program for government accounts being one of them," he said.

Holley said CUC needs some improvement on non-revenue water loss, past and current billings with certain government entities, a five-year plan, and to better train and promote the staff.

Although there have been some improvement on non-revenue water loss, "it's a long way to go."

He said he has never seen a five-year plan. "For example, what are our 'renewable energy' plans? Where do they fit into a five-year plan? How can we better prepare ourselves for the next major disaster?" Holley asked.

He said he believes that approving Camacho's renewal "is the right decision for the Commonwealth."

Deleon Guerrero agrees that Camacho is moving CUC forward, but that there are areas that CUC needs to work on in moving CUC forward, getting a five-year plan and ensuring that the CNMI gets the best out of the corporation.

Paulino commended Camacho as she also thanked Deleon Guerrero for the questions that he raised at the executive session.

"The end result is I'm very impressed. Executive director, thank you so much for you vision and thank you so much for leading the CNMI through three typhoons and all the hard work and commitment from your staff and all the support from the community," Paulino said.

Manglona said that Camacho has proven his leadership and his management style.

"We would like to continue with that partnership and…I do fully support the renewal of the executive director's contract. And let us continue working together as a team," she said.

CUC

From Page 1

the contract.

Manglona said the board will then sign off on the contract.

She said the contract was hammered out in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General.

"There is nothing wrong with that [IBCM] proposal," she said.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) had questioned the decision of CUC's selection committee to award the contract to IBCM, saying the company is connected to a similar deal with CUC that raised a lot of red flags about two years ago. He suggested for CUC to put in place debarment procedures.

Manglona said she supports the idea of CUC having debarment procedures but, in this case, "why debar a company when nothing has been given to [prove] that this company is corrupted, whatever."

In his recommendation to the board to reaffirm the emergency declaration, Camacho said that not having a tested baseload power generation unit on Rota that is capable of sustaining peak power production of 1.8 megawatts poses a threat to public health, safety, or welfare.

CUC's board of directors approved the emergency and procurement method last Jan. 25.

Camacho said CUC's power generation experts themselves have determined that available power sources on Rota should be considered only as temporary solutions because the availability of Rota Resort's power supply is not guaranteed, nor can they assure its operational condition because it is a private system outside of CUC's control.

He said the Cummins No. 3 engine on Rota that is currently providing power is already past due for its next scheduled overhaul and has the potential for an emergency shutdown.

Should the Cummins No. 3 engine fail, overhauling the unit will take more than three months to resolve, Camacho said.

Finally, he said, the Mitsui engine unit cannot be deemed reliable as the unit is not overhauled and likely may result in system failure and emergency shutdown.

"On this basis, our experts have determined that a power generation unit that has been tested to withstand baseload conditions is still needed in lieu of the present power generation backup sources and it is their recommendation to procure such a unit as soon as is possible," Camacho said.

He said it has been determined that the current state of the power generation plant does not have redundant and reliable backup system capable of providing Rota's peak load at this time.

Camacho said IBCM's proposal to procure, deliver, and commission such a unit within six weeks from notice to proceed would resolve the power crisis and the threat to public health, safety, and welfare.

He said CUC's Source Selection Committee, with guidance from the Office of the Attorney General, has accepted IBCM's quotation as the best solution to resolve this emergency.

At the CUC board meeting last Tuesday, or on the day of the directors' re-affirmation, Propst described the $160,000 cost for the engine and freight cost for a used 2-megawatt generator set is "unacceptable and unbelievable."

At the same meeting, Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) also called the $160,000 cost as "just unbelievable" and he asked the board to take a step back with the emergency purchase because the electric power situation on Rota now is different from a month ago.

CUC's procurement officer Manny Sablan, power generator manager Richard Cano, and contracting officer John Mafnas explained to the board about how the quotations were made to the vendors for the emergency purchase of generator set and the $160,000 freight cost.

The $160,000 freight cost apparently includes logistics and not just for shipping.

NMI

From Page 1

concluded with the announcement of a tie for the top award, the Sweepstakes Trophy: the Okkodo High School band of Guam as directed by Maximo Ronquillo and Stringstars, which is directed by Ao Zhang.

The Mount Carmel School Concert Band, directed by Julian Greening, got the silver award for the Band and Orchestra festival during the second day and tied with Guam's L.P. Untalan Middle School Band and St. John's School String Orchestra. Guam's Guam Adventist Academy Handbell Choir got gold.

Marianas High School Band, as directed by David Frahm, was able to grab gold on the first day of the Band and Orchestra Festival and tied with Guam's Harvest Christian Academy High School band, directed by Andrew Dongon; the Harvest Christian Academy High School Orchestra, directed by Kelly Schlarb; and the Harvest Christian Academy School Symphony Orchestra, directed by both Dongon and Schlarb.

The MHS Glee Club Rhythm n' Harmony was able to get gold for the Choral Festival during the second day with the direction of Clarisse Torio, who is also a student at MHS.

Saipan Tribune learned last week that Saipan-based music school Yonsei Academy was able to get a total of eight awards—seven gold and a silver—for piano performances and one violin performance.

Hans Xu, Ruby Zhang, Jemima Lin, Jennifer Woo, Sua Kim, Judy Liang, and Kate Ishida were the seven students under the Yonsei Academy. One student, according to a press release from the school, was left unnamed.

The Yonsei Academy students are also students from several schools on Saipan, including Grace Christian Academy, Agape Christian School, MHS, and MCS.

Four students, Lin, Zhang, Woo, and the unnamed student, participated in the TBMF for the first time, according to the music school.

Stellar Marianas, TSL Foundation team up for Miss U bid

As the islands' nonprofit pageant and talent group prepares for the 2019 Miss Marianas Pageant in June, an alliance with the CNMI's leading philanthropic organization, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, aims to increase the chances for the Northern Marianas to compete once again on world's greatest stage at Miss Universe.

Over 20 members and officers of Stellar Marianas were joined Tuesday afternoon by TanHoldings chief executive officer Jerry Tan, TSL Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, and administrative officer Mel Naputi at the Marianas Visitors Authority conference room to announce the foundation's commitment to fund the Miss Universe pageant's $10,000 charter fee.

"As a destination and as a goal, we should try to be on every world stage—just like we wish we could compete in the World Cup or other world competitions. We have invested in our active sport programs over these years to begin that possibility for our youth and our community. We should be determined to compete at world level and for pageants, you cannot get bigger than Miss Universe," said Tan.

"There are very few organizations on island that offer such life-changing opportunities for our young women and we are happy to be able to support such a worthwhile endeavor," he added.

Stellar Marianas is preparing for its bid for the chance to compete in Miss Universe 2020 and this kind of momentous support, said president Laila Boyer, "is just the springboard we need to realize this dream that we have been working so hard to achieve these past years."

"We could not stop clapping when we heard the news. This is truly a positive and transformative experience for our young women and as volunteers we will work extra hard to ensure this becomes a reality," she said. "We are already in one of big three with Miss International in Tokyo, Japan, and because of our limited exposure and resources, we do not take these amazing opportunities for granted."

The last time the CNMI was represented on the Miss Universe stage was with 2005 Miss Marianas Shequita Bennett in 2006.

2018 Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera continues to be active in the community, working alongside MVA and various organizations to promote the CNMI before and after returning from the 2018 Miss International Pageant in Tokyo, Japan.

Stellar Marianas is poised to announce this year's contestants for the 2019 Miss Marianas Pageant this week and are beyond excited to begin the training and activities within the celebration of International Women's Month that will lead to the crowning of a queen.

"We are working on a prize package valued over $25,000 for our winners with most heartfelt gratitude to our most gracious sponsors and adding a few new details that will surely make this an unforgettable show for our community to enjoy," said Public Relations and Community Events director Monique Sablan.

MVA has already pledged its continued support, working on the possibility of an internship for this year's titleholder so she may have direct support and training in the islands' main hospitality industry.

Stellar Marianas also welcomed five new members to the team: Tolentino, lawyer and 2001 Miss Northern Marianas Universe Janet King to lead physical fitness and nutrition, NMC Criminal Justice coordinator Zerlyn A. Taimanao, and Janessa Jovannie Santos to assist with beauty and wardrobe design and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services administrative assistant Michi Viches for décor and stage design.

Island Image & Motion also leads this year's photography and video team with a range of artistic crew members that, along with all volunteers, also shows that this one extraordinary event creates various opportunities to share their talent and passion as well support local businesses.

Stellar Marianas will also soon be inviting local entertainers to perform on pageant night in June, so interested individuals and groups may contact via www.facebook.com/stellarmarianas.com, email stellarqueens@gmail.com or follow Cabrera on Instagram @missnorthernmarianas. ***(PR)***

Members and officers of Stellar Marianas were joined Tuesday afternoon by TanHoldings Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan and Tan Siu Lin Foundation officers at the Marianas Visitors Authority conference room to announce the foundation's commitment to fund the Miss Universe pageant's $10,000 charter fee.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 10th birthday, Nathan. Always give your best in everything you do and respect others. Enjoy your special day with your friends. Daddy, Mommy, and Ate Macky love you.

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Happy birthday and welcome to the Christian world, Shane Edward Jugos. He and his parents celebrated his first birthday and baptism with family and friends yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

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2 GCA students make it to CNMI Team in NJSDA

Grace Christian Academy students bagged three gold medals in this school year's speech regional competitions for 6th to 8th grade.

Two GCA gold medalists, Tae Hee Kim and Anthony Jacob Camacho-DLG, will join the CNMI team in the national competitions for National Junior Speech and Debate Association this June in Dallas, Texas.

As a first-timer, Kim, a GCA sixth grader, did a remarkable performance in all her competition rounds by winning two medals in Poetry Reading and Prose Reading and one silver medal in Dramatic Interpretation.

"I am blessed to have the opportunity to join speech and debate as a neophyte and won during the regional competition. My love for acting and speaking made me interested to join. I tried my best, prayed to God, and just enjoyed performing every round," she said.

Kim, who has already won several awards in reading and speech competitions in Primary Grades Forensic Conference competitions, added, "I am excited to represent Poetry Reading for Team CNMI in Dallas, Texas this coming June."

Camacho-DLG, an 8th grader at GCA and a veteran NJSDA competitor since 6th grade, won gold in Extemporaneous Speech at the NJSDA.

Grace Christian Academy's National Junior Speech and Debate Association 2019 regional finalist and winners have their picture taken at Rev. Raymond S. Kinsella Library. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"My experience participating in this year's NJSDA allowed me another opportunity to master the art of public speaking," he said.

"I will do my best with humility and take in the experience afforded to me in representing the CNMI National Team. I would like to thank my coach, Ms. Grace Duran, for believing in me and providing me the guidance to push through. I want to thank my mom for encouraging me and being my No. 1 supporter. At nationals, I expect to challenge an elite pool of participants in order for me to push harder and challenge myself to strive for excellence," he added.

Both are excited to represent GCA and join other students from other schools to form the CNMI Team for the NJSDA nationals.

NJSDA competitions encourage public and private school students to participate in and become proficient in the forensic arts: reading, debate, public speaking, and interpretations. School coaches are encouraged to recognize all the regional competition winners, including the first round, quarterfinals, semifinals, and if they make into the final round (some has four or more rounds).

Grace Christian Academy's Junior Thespian 2019 Regional winners have their picture taken at GCA. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GCA also congratulates the two junior thespians who have been winning several first places in the monthly competitions as they showcase their talents in Solo Musical and Duet Musical. Sara Elizabeth Keaton and Jinie Thompson emerged as 4th place in Duet Musical in the regional competition.

GCA NJSDA and Thespian coordinator/coach Grace Duran together with all the GCA volunteer judges, parents, teachers, and administrators are very proud of all the following competitors this school year.

GCA NJSDA REGIONAL WINNERS

Tae Hee Kim, 1st Place in Poetry Reading, 1st Place in Prose Reading, 2nd Place in Dramatic Interpretation

Anthony Jacob Camacho-DLG, 1st Place in US Extemporaneous Speech, 3rd Place in Impromptu Speech

Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 3rd Place in Dramatic Interpretation, 5th Place in Impromptu Speech

Gabriel Retardo, 2nd Place in US Extemporaneous Speech

Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, 4th Place in Poetry Reading

Angieleysha Punzalan, Finalist in Impromptu Speech

Matthew Ernest, Quarterfinalist in Impromptu Speech, Quarter Finalist in Prose Reading

Steven Adriatico, Quarterfinalist in Poetry Reading

Jennifer Woo, Quarterfinalist in Declamation

GCA JUNIOR THESPIAN REGIONAL WINNERS

Sara Elizabeth Keaton, **Jinie Thompson,** 4th Place Duet Musical

Sara Elizabeth Keaton, Finalist in Solo Musical

GCA NJSDA and thespian coordinator/coach: Grace Duran

GCA NJSDA judges/ volunteers: Roby Pamintuan, Joshua Pajarillaga, Jonathan Elliott, Na lee Lee, Jonathan Elliott, Alice Kim, Arvin Dayao, Kevin Song, Melody Woo, Juruel Magtalas

GCA thespian judges/ volunteers: Melody Woo, Hanako Benitez, Lyzelle Castillo, Juruel Magtalas

Register your child for Operation Christmas Child

Samaritan's Purse and its local ministry partners on Saipan would like to invite all children ages 2-14, to attend an Operation Christmas Child children's event and distribution.

All children ages 2-14 are invited to attend. Events and distributions will take place in many locations and venues across Saipan. In order to participate parents/guardian will need to register their children and receive a ticket. Event ocation and distribution date will be assigned at registration.

Registration will take place this week March 11-17 in different venues across Saipan. ***(PR)***

REGISTRATION LOCATIONS AND TIMES

Kagman
■ Grace Christian Church Kagman
March 14-15 (Thu-Fri) 4pm-7pm
March 16 (Sat) 10am-2pm
■ Brother's Market
March 14-15 (Thu-Fri) 4pm-7pm
March 16 (Sat) 10am-2pm

Capital Hill
■ Capitol Hill Market
March 14-15 (Thu-Fri) 4pm-7pm
March 16 (Sat) 10am-2pm

Tanapag/ San Roque
■ iMART Market
March 13-15 (Wed-Fri) 4pm-8pm
March 16 (Sat) 10am-2pm
■ Welcome Market
March 13-15 (Wed-Fri) 4pm-8pm
March 16 (Sat) 10am-2pm

Garapan/ Middle Road
■ Garapan Public Market
March 11-15 (Mon-Fri) 4pm-8pm
March 16 (Sat) 10am-2pm
■ 99 cents Market
March 13-15 (Wed-Fri) 4pm-8pm
March 16 (Sat) 1PM-5PM
■ Taro Sue
March 13-15 (Wed-Fri) 4pm-8pm

Susupe/ CK
■ Marianas Business Plaza
March 11-15 (Mon-Fri) 5pm-8pm
March 16 (Sat) 7am-12pm
■ Joeten Superstore
March 11-15 (Mon-Fri) 5pm-8pm
March 16 (Sat) 10am-12pm
■ Saipan Community Church
March 11-15 (Mon-Fri) 5pm-8pm
March 16 (Sat) 10am-12pm

Dandan/ San Vicente/ As Lito
■ NAP As Lito
March 11-13 (Mon-Wed) 9AM-12Ppm
■ Lucky D Market
March 11 (Mon) 5pm-7pm
■ Ming Yang
March 15-16 (Fri-Sat) 5pm -7pm
■ Twins Market
March 17 (Sun) 3pm-5pm
■ Jesus Is Lord Church (San Vicente)
March 15-16 (Fri-Sat) 9am-5pm
March 22-23 (Fri-Sat) 9am-5pm

San Antonio/ Koblerville
■ Han Nam Market
March 11-15 (Mon-Fri) 4pm-8pm
March 16 (Sat) 10am-2pm
■ Afetna Super Market
March 11-15 (Mon-Fri) 4pm-8pm
March 16 (Sat) 10am-2pm
■ Cornerstone Christian Church (As Perdido)
March 11-15 (Mon-Fri) 5pm-8pm
March 16 (Sat) 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 237-6824 ext. 23/22 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMC IFB 19-001

COMMERCIAL RIDING MOWERS
NMC CREES SAIPAN, ROTA and TINIAN RESEARCH STATION

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of New Commercial Riding Mowers for CREES Saipan, Rota and Tinian Research Station.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. 0, commencing Monday (March 11th, 2019) between the hours of 9: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.** As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, Award # 2018-31100 (Regular)

In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., April 09, 2019, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. 0, AsTerlaje Campus, Saipan, MP 96950.
For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via email or hand delivery to Robert Suzuki (robert.suzuki@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by the following:

/s/ Robert Suzuki
NMC Acting Procurement Manager

/s/ Patricia Coleman
Interim Dean-Director, NMC CREES

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 • Facsimile (670)236-9797

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-JUDICIARY-01

SUBMISSION DATE: March 19, 2019
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR THE CNMI JUDICIARY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Herman Sablan Taitano
P.O. Box 503111 Saipan MP 96950
287-4626

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF Donata Lifoifoi Taitano An Incompetent	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0111
By Herman Sablan Taitano Petitioner	**NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named by Herman S. Taitano, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at the CNMI Judiciary, before Teresa Kim-Tenorio on the 11th day of March, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom MBP or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Emergency 3-day water service interruption

There will be a scheduled emergency water service interruption beginning today, March 11, 2019 through March 13, 2019, from 8:30am to 3:30pm.

Areas that will be affected are Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road, Airport Road in Dandan, As Lito, Lower Dandan, Tottotville, and portions of Adobu Drive in Koblerville.

The purpose of the water service interruptions is to allow personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s water operations to perform repairs on a damaged 6-inch transmission water line located on Airport Road.

As a result of the repair, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community.

Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon thereafter.

For the safety of CUC's men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution when traveling through the area or to take alternative routes—the northbound lane fronting Hawthorne CAT's warehouse on Airport Road will be closed.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Scheduled power interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

■ Monday, March 11, 2019 – 8am to 1pm

Outage type: Lateral outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit

Village location: Talafofo Road

Power service area(s) affected: Talafofo

Water service area(s) affected: None

Wastewater service area(s) affected: None

Pole replacement(s): 5

■ Monday, March 11, 2019 – 8am to 4pm

Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit

Village location: Isa Drive, Lower Papago

Power service area(s) affected: Lao Lao Bay and Lower Papago

Water service area(s) affected: None

Wastewater service area(s) affected: None

Pole replacement(s): 9

The purpose of the emergency power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from the CUC contracting company, Primary Source Electric, to safely replace 14 wooden poles with concrete ones along the villages of Talafofo and Lower Papago. The emergency power interruptions are part of CUC's resiliency program aimed at hardening and strengthening the power distribution system that was affected by Super Typhoon Yutu.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Guam Brewery Tap House opens in Tumon

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Brewery Tap House head brewer Mike Converse poses with a Tap House Paddle.

TUMON, Guam—The Guam Brewery Tap House, Guam's innovative craft beer and pub concept, officially tapped its first keg this month in Tumon Bay.

The Tap House serves specialty brews designed by award-winning head brewer Mike Converse.

The Tap House unveiled six of its proprietary recipes—Guam Gold Cream Ale, Tumon Bay Hoppy Blond, Old Hagåtña Honey Rye, Island IPA, Mansanita Amber Ale, and Paseo Porter—and previewed its first freshly brewed small batch of the Paseo Porter during a soft opening this month for friends, family, and trade partners.

All recipes have been awarded the Guam Product Seal.

"The Tap House is proud to bring delicious and fresh craft beer to Guam that infuses unique flavors that anyone can enjoy," said Converse. "I invite craft beer drinkers and enthusiasts to order a paddle or sample all six of our specially designed recipes to discover their favorite flavors. Every few weeks, I'll be introducing a new recipe that will be freshly brewed in-house and available in small batches."

Converse in a nationally recognized head brewer who has won numerous awards for his craft beer recipes. Converse learned the art of brewing from a true brewmaster revered in the craft beer world as a master of the craft.

"We've been testing recipes for more than a year to perfect the flavors that will resonate with the tastes of local beer enthusiasts," said Converse. "You don't have to be a beer connoisseur to enjoy our craft brews. We use the best ingredients that will appeal to the connoisseur, but we brew for the masses. I look forward to meeting Guam's craft community and talking about flavors that they enjoy."

The Tap House also offers an extensive menu of tapas, handcrafted burgers, sandwiches and sides, all made with the finest ingredients and infused with beers produced by the Guam Brewery. The dishes were designed to pair well with the Guam Brewery's craft beers or to be enjoyed at any time.

"Craft beer and craft food enthusiasts are going to love the Tap House concept. I guarantee you'll walk in for Guam's freshest craft brew and end up staying for our delicious food by Chef Jared Preuc," said Mark Stotts, general manager of the Tap House. "Everyone will enjoy our easygoing, warm Håfa Adai vibe."

Stotts added, "We have tasting guides for anyone who wants to learn more about our recipes and craft beer in general, to include the special batches brewed here at the Tap House. We're here to enlighten anyone's craft curiosities."

Phillip Bamba, one of the owners of the Tap House, said, "We've been brewing this innovative concept for a few years now. The Tap House and our brews represent the best of our island and culture to the world. Our line of craft beers is meant to delight our customers from start to finish and leave a lasting and positive representation of our people and our Håfa Adai spirit. We are proud of what we created and invite everyone to experience it."

Located in the Blue Lagoon Plaza on San Vitores Road in Tumon, The Tap House is open daily from 3pm to 11pm. For more information, visit theguambrewery.com, Facebook (@theguambreweryandtaphouse), Instagram (@guambrewery), or Twitter (@GuamTap). ***(PR)***

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Ninth Circuit high school civics contest to end April 1

SAN FRANCISCO—Just a few weeks remain for young people in the western United States and Pacific islands to enter the 2019 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest, an essay and video competition offering substantial cash prizes and an opportunity to meet eminent jurists and legal practitioners.

The contest is open to young people in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, the U.S. territory of Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Students in grades 9-12 in public, private and parochial schools or home- schooled students of equivalent grade status may enter.

The deadline for entries is 11:59pm Pacific time on April 1, 2019.

More information is available at http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest.

The theme of the contest is "The 4th Amendment in the 21st Century—What is an 'Unreasonable Search and Seizure' in the Digital Age?"

Students are challenged to write an essay or produce a short video focusing on how the federal courts have applied 4th Amendment protections to electronic data devices, particularly the cellphones upon which almost everyone relies.

The contest is cosponsored by the Courts and Community Committee of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit and the federal courts in the 15 judicial districts that make up the circuit.

A total of $7,000 in cash prizes will be awarded. The top three finishers in both the essay and video competitions will receive $2,000 for first place, $1,000 for second place and $500 for third place. The first-place winners, along with a parent or guardian, will also be invited to the 2019 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Spokane, Washington. The conference is an annual gathering of federal judges and lawyers practicing in the federal courts.

In addition to the Ninth Circuit contest, many students also have a chance to win cash prizes in preliminary competitions sponsored by the individual judicial districts to select finalists.

For more information about the Ninth Circuit Civics Contest, contact the Ninth Circuit Office of the Circuit Executive, (415) 355-8873/civicscontest@ce9.uscourts.gov. ***(PR)***

COPE NORTH U.S. AIR FORCE/MASTER SGT JT MAY III

Members from the U.S. Air Force, Japan Air Self-Defense Force and Royal Australian Air Force prepare for movement during Cope North 19 on Tinian last Feb 27, 2019. Cope North is an annual multilateral U.S. Pacific Air Forces-sponsored field training exercise focused on combat air forces large-force employment and mobility air forces humanitarian assistance and disaster relief training to enhance interoperability among U.S., Australian and Japanese forces.

UOG celebrates its 51st Charter Day tomorrow

The University of Guam will celebrate its 51st Charter Day tomorrow, March 12, 2019.

Opening ceremonies begin at 9am in the center courtyard, and activities run throughout the day until 5pm. The event is open to the public.

The theme is "Para Hulo'—Ever Upward" which celebrates the university's continued commitment to excellence in academics, research, and service.

Charter Day is the largest public event at the university with over 5,000 people visiting UOG each year. The entire campus will be filled with activities and events for the whole family, including food, games, live entertainment, hut-building competition, campus tours, the CHamoru Language Competition, agricultural displays, Army ROTC demonstrations, Isla Center for the Arts exhibit, President's Cup finals, and more!

TechFest

UOG's Office of Information Technology is hosting its first-ever TechFest and will showcase modern technology through various interactive displays and activities. The event will also feature special presentations on various IT topics and keynote speaker Jay Castro, product content strategist at AirBnB. The National Center for Women in Information Technology will be presenting scholarships to local high school students. Find out more at www.uog.edu/it/techfest.

Charter Day mobile app

This year, UOG is also proud to announce the launch of the official UOG Charter Day Mobile App, which is available for Apple iOS and Android mobile devices. Attendees will have the schedule of events, special promotions, vendor maps, and more at their fingertips! The UOG Charter Day mobile app can be downloaded on the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

For more information and a list of activities and downloads, visit www.uog.edu/charterday. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-006

KAGMAN WATERLINE AND BOOSTER STATION REHABILITATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, on the installation of a new booster station to replace the existing Kumoi pump station. The work also includes and connection of a new 8-inch PVC transmission line and a new 6-inch PVC distribution line complete with all necessary valves, fittings, and appurtenances. It will also involve the rehabilitation of the existing deep well KG-131 and the reconnection of all customers onto new or existing waterlines within the project area. The Contractor shall complete the work in accordance with the plans, specifications and terms of the contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and the United States Office of Insular Affairs (US OIA) thru the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island (CNMI) Capital Improvement Project Office (CIP). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA and the CNMI CIP Office.

*CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.*

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **February 28, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Conference Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-006- Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation",* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 21, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 7, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, at email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer at email travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant at email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-015

ROTA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2 PROJECT (W17-053)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of gate valve assembly, PRV installations, PRV CMU protective boxes, fencing, restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **March 13th, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-015, Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 4, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 21, 2019** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer via email at travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

IT&E, SK Telecom to bring 5G network to Marianas

IT&E and SK Telecom will be working together to bring the 5G network, to the CNMI and Guam.

The heads of both companies met at IT&E's Harmon headquarters the week of March 4 to finalize technology solutions to support the 5G network in the Marianas—a first.

5G stands for fifth generation. According to techradar.com, it is the next generation of mobile internet connectivity and offers faster speeds and more reliable connections on smartphones and other devices, with average download speeds of around 1GBps.

Jose Ricardo "Ricky" Delgado, president and CEO of Citadel Holdings, the parent company of IT&E, said that, with SK Telecom "contributing its engineering expertise as a global leader in the roll-out of 5G technology, IT&E's 5G network will set the standard for communications in Guam and the Marianas for many years to come,"

In September 2018, IT&E announced its strategic partnership with SK Telecom. The alliance allows IT&E to draw from SK Telecom's wealth of knowledge gained from its 5G network deployments. The partnership provides successful use-cases from SK Telecom that IT&E can deploy to fit the unique needs and demands of our island, as well as ensure network survivability.

"5G is transformational technology, and when supported by SK Telecom's engineering team and our typhoon-proven network, our subscribers will enjoy a smooth transition to the next generation of mobile connectivity. With 5G, subscribers will be able to do everything faster—stream, download content, video call, and more," said Jim Oehlerking, IT&E's chief executive officer.

Through the partnership, IT&E and SK Telecom will deploy fixed wireless access 5G by the second half of 2019 and 5G networks will be applied with mobile edge computing.

FWA 5G will expand the coverage of the network to areas that may have previously not had the infrastructure to support seamless network connections; and mobile edge computing paves the way for future technology and services, like Internet of Things, etc.

SK Telecom will also apply its quantum cryptography technology, which was utilized in Deutsche Telekom's trial network in July 2018, enabling IT&E to provide its subscribers with the safest 5G service.

"SK Telecom will work closely with IT&E to deploy safe and stable 5G networks in Guam and the Marianas. Going forward, SK Telecom will continue to cooperate with diverse players throughout the globe to accelerate 5G-powered innovations," said Park Jung-Ho, CEO and president of SK Telecom.

About

SK Telecom is the largest mobile operator in Korea with nearly 50 percent of the market share. The company launched the 5G network on Dec. 1, 2018.

IT&E serves more than 90,000 subscribers in Guam and the Marianas and has been in business for over 35 years. ***(PR)***

Precinct 2 reps call for cleanup volunteers

Precinct 2 Reps. Christina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) are hosting a cleanup in Chalan Kanoa and Susupe this Saturday, March 16, from 8am to 11am. Both lawmakers are working in collaboration with numerous community partners, and all volunteers are welcome.

The meeting point is at Sugar Dock Beach at 8am, and volunteers will fan out along the beaches and into residential areas from there. The cleanup event wraps up with refreshments back at Sugar Dock.

"This Saturday's event is the first in a series of community efforts to beautify and build pride in our villages," said Rep. Christina Sablan.

"The Saipan Mayor's Office, [Department of] Public Works, [Division of] Parks and Recreation, and other partner agencies have done a great job removing much of the big debris left behind by Super Typhoon Yutu. But there is still quite a lot of loose litter and smaller debris all over our villages that residents of all ages can help clean up.

"So my colleague John Paul and I decided to organize this initiative, and we are encouraging community members to come out on March 16 and show some love for the place we live," she added.

"I commend our community members for their resiliency and hard work in helping recover and rebuild in our villages from the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu," Rep. John Paul Sablan said.

"There is still a lot of debris in our villages and I, along with my colleague, Rep. Tina Sablan, are humbly asking our community members to join us this Saturday [March 16] in continuing our efforts in cleaning and beautifying our villages and beaches," he added.

Reps. Christina Sablan and John Paul Sablan also thanked the following partners for their support and participation in this Saturday's cleanup event: the Saipan Mayor's Office, Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Marianas Visitors Authority, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, WSR Elementary School and the My Wave Club, Mount Carmel School, Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Beyond Limits Car Club, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, and Miss Earth Northern Marianas.

Volunteers are asked to wear light or bright clothing for roadside visibility. Water, gloves, trash bags, hand sanitizer, and refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact the Office of Rep. Christina Sablan at 664-8829, 287-6286, or brucejarrett82@gmail.com; or the Office of Rep. John Paul Sablan at 664-8965, 783-2256, or anepaial@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-013

AGINGAN PRIMARY SCREEN PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the attainment of a Primary Screen for the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-013, Agingan Primary Screen Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 21, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 7, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

Amendment No. 1

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (CPD) FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2019 AND SOLICITATION FOR COMMENTS FOR THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated $1,361,000.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $870,145.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $421,257.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $69,598.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2019.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of persons. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

- ***Program Year 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds will be utilized for the following projects: Rehabilitation of the Tinian Gymnasium Basketball Court; Rehabilitation of the Rota Youth Center; Rehabilitation of the Tanapag Youth Center; Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Children's Park Roof.***
- ***Program Year 2019 Emergency Solutions Grant (HESG) funds will be used for repaid re-housing of homeless families in the CNMI.***
- ***Program Year 2019 HOME funds will continue to be used to assist families in new construction, rehabilitation, and purchase of a home.***
- ***Consolidated Plan: The NMHC is preparing its Five (5) Year Consolidated Plan and is soliciting comments and input on the priority needs, goals, and objectives for the next five (5) years.***

A briefing will be conducted to the public to discuss regarding the CPD program funds. The briefing will also enable the community to comment on the use of the program funds and to obtain information regarding the CPD program process.

The schedules and venues for the briefing are as follows:

Rota:	***~~Sinapalo Youth Center, Sinapalo: March 08, 2019: 3:00 p.m.~~*** ***Moved to March 18, 2019: 3:00 p.m. at the Sinapalo Youth Center, Sinapalo***
Tinian:	***Mayor's Office Conference Room, San Jose: March 12, 2019: 3:00 p.m.***
Saipan:	***NMHC Central Office Conference Room, Garapan: March 15, 2019: 3:00 p.m.***

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the briefing so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD programs, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/

Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670)532-9410
Fax: (670)532-9441

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Harsh immigration tactics aren't working. Migrant crossings are soaring

The numbers are sobering. The federal government reported Tuesday that immigration agents apprehended 76,000 people—most of them families or unaccompanied minors—at the U.S.-Mexico border in February, twice the level of the previous year and the highest for February in 11 years. The increase continues a trend that began in the fall, and offers direct evidence that the strategy of maximum enforcement at the border is not reducing the flow of migrants.

And no, the answer is not "a big, beautiful wall." Most of those apprehended weren't trying to sneak past border agents; instead, they sought out agents once they reached the border and turned themselves in, hoping to receive asylum or other permission to stay.

Furthermore, the situation isn't a military confrontation. Nor is it a national security emergency. It's a complex humanitarian crisis that appears to be worsening, and it's going to take creative analytical minds to address.

For example, most of the families flowing north in recent months come from poor regions; increasingly now, it's economics.

But experts argue that President Trump's rhetoric may be playing a role too. The more he threatens draconian enforcement measures and cutbacks in legal immigration, the more people contemplating moving north are pushed to go sooner, before it gets even harder to reach the U.S. Similarly, more migrants are arriving at more treacherous and remote stretches of the border to avoid getting stuck in Tijuana or other border cities where the U.S. government has reduced the number of asylum seekers it will allow in, claiming an inability to process the requests.

The system is overwhelmed. But the solution is neither to build a wall, nor to incarcerate more people, nor to separate children from their parents, nor to deny people the right to exercise their legal right to seek asylum. The solution is to improve the efficiency and capacity of the system to deal with the changed migrant demographics.

About half of the new immigration court cases last year involved asylum requests. A decade ago, about 1 percent of border-crossers were unaccompanied minors or asylum seekers; now about a third are.

More judges and support staff are necessary for the immigration court system, something the Trump administration has, to its rare credit, sought from Congress. Yet the unconscionable case backlog there has continued to grow. The bigger the court backlog and the longer the delays, the more likely it is that the prospect of staying in the U.S. during a protracted court process will draw more migrants with iffy asylum claims. A faster and fair process would give those

See HARSH on Next Page

We have a crisis on hand! 76,000 illegals tried crossing our border last month!
Hey... no way is this an emergency!
You're right! That would make Trump look good!!
Just let them all come on in!!
Yeah... then we get millions more Democrats!
DEMOCRATS
HOUSE HEARINGS ON TRUMP INVESTIGATIONS
HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY K. NIELSEN
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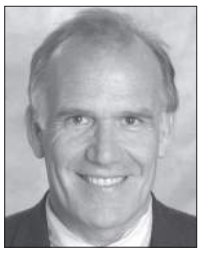
The continued resilience of Quiet America

By VICTOR DAVIS HANSON
Tribune News Service



Victor Davis Hanson is a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and the author of the soon-to-be released The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won*, to appear in October from Basic Books. You can reach him by e-mailing authorvdh@gmail.com.*

Fifty years ago, the United States was facing crises and unrest on multiple fronts. Some predicted that internal chaos and revolution would unravel the nation.

The 1969 Vietnam War protests on the UC Berkeley campus turned so violent that National Guard helicopters indiscriminately sprayed tear gas on student demonstrators. Later that year, hundreds of thousands of people filled the streets of major cities as part of the "Moratorium to the End the War in Vietnam." In Washington, D.C., about a half-million protesters marched to the White House.

Native American demonstrators took over the former federal prison on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay and stayed there for 19 months, declaring it their own sovereign space.

In November 1969, the American public was exposed to grotesque photos of the My Lai Massacre, which had occurred the year before. The nation was stunned that American troops in Vietnam had shot innocent women and children. My Lai heated up the already hot national debate over whether the Vietnam War was either moral or winnable.

Meanwhile, the trial of the so-called Chicago Seven, involving the supposed organizers of the riots at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, roiled the nation. The courtroom drama involving radical defendants such as Tom Hayden, Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin descended into a national circus, as the battle between leftists and the establishment went from the streets to the courtroom.

It was also the year of the Woodstock music festival. More than 400,000 thrill-seekers showed up on a small farm in the Catskill Mountains in August 1969 to celebrate three days of "peace and music." Footage of free love and free drugs at Woodstock shocked half the country but resonated with the other half, which viewed the festival as much-needed liberation for an uptight nation.

Newly inaugurated President Richard Nixon characterized the national divide as the "silent majority" of traditional Americans fighting back against radical changes in culture and politics.

Under the strain of constant protests, the cultural and moral fabric of the country seemed to be tearing apart. Alternative lifestyle choices sometimes led to violence or death.

When a West Coast version of Woodstock was tried a few months later in Altamont, Calif., the concert ended up an orgy of murder, drug overdoses, random violence and destruction of property.

In July of 1969, liberal icon Teddy Kennedy ran his car off a bridge on Chappaquiddick Island, Mass., and his young passenger, Mary Jo Kopechne, was left to drown. Sen. Kennedy did not report the accident to authorities until 10 hours later.

The next month, members of hippie psychopath Charles Manson's "family" butchered seven innocents in Los Angeles, among them actress Sharon Tate. The Manson family apparently had hoped that the sensationalized murders would ignite some sort of racial civil war, thereby unraveling the United States.

Yet a wounded United States did not just survive 1969, but reached new heights of scientific, technological and cultural achievement.

For the first time in history, a national economy produced more than $1 trillion worth of goods and services in a single year, as American nominal GDP for 1969 exceeded that level.

America also put the first humans on the moon in 1969—and did it twice the same year, with the Apollo 11 and Apollo 12 lunar missions.

Boeing's 747 jumbo jet made its first successful test flight in 1969. The 400-passenger airliner was so well designed and ahead of its time that it continues in service today, a half-century after its rollout. It took some 35 years for a European company to introduce a competitor to the 747, the Airbus A380. Yet the latter jet has been something of a white elephant. Many airlines have stopped using the A380, and Airbus has announced that it will stop producing the jets in 2021.

American computer scientists first used a precursor to the internet in 1969, when computers at UCLA and Stanford managed to share an electronic network, known as ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network).

Fifty years later, what are the lessons of the chaotic year 1969 for our similarly schizophrenic age of polarization, civil disunity, and unprecedented wealth and scientific advancement?

America is such a huge and diverse country, and so abundantly endowed with natural and human resources, that it is capable of achieving unprecedented scientific, economic and technological breakthroughs even as its social fabric is tearing apart.

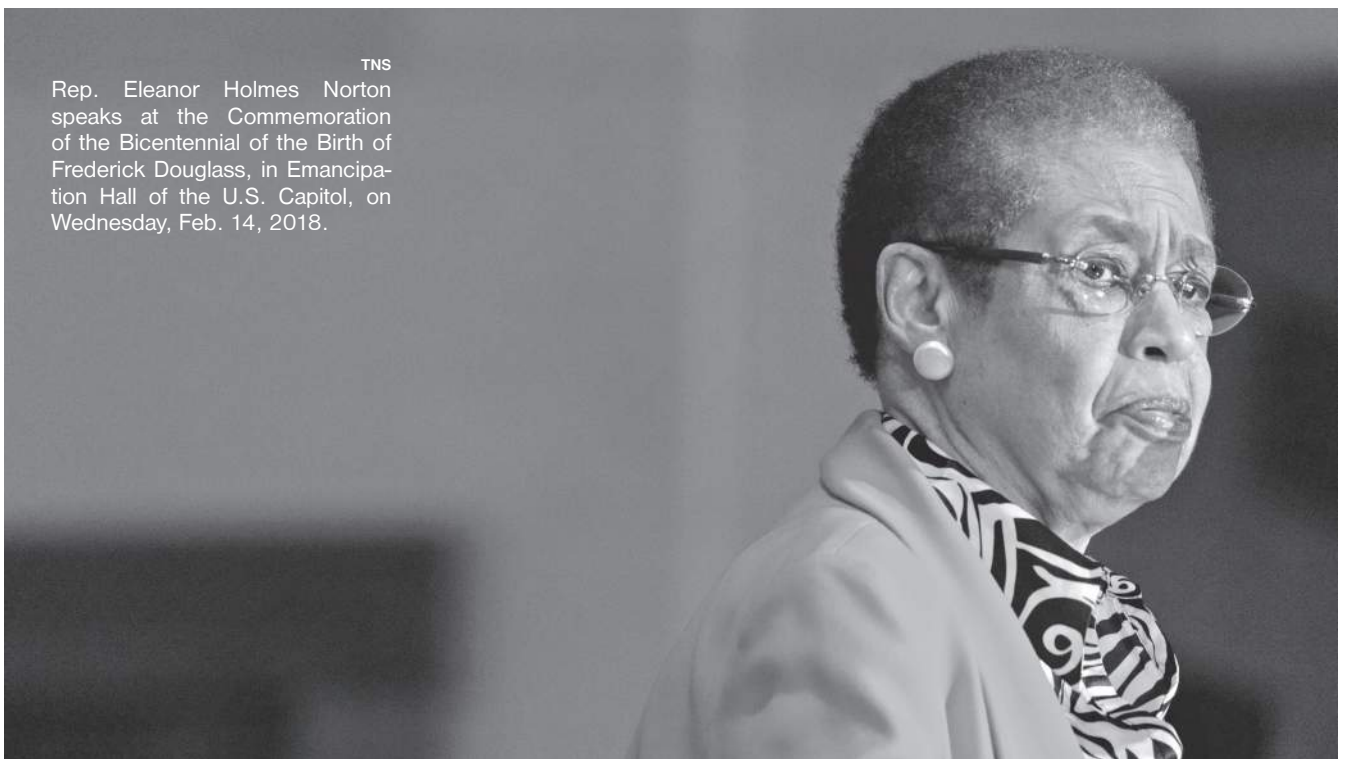
Or, put another way, while the media highlights crime, protests, grievances and civil disorder, a majority of Americans still go to work unbothered each day.

And in a rare society with a free market, constitutional government and individual freedom, people continue to do amazing things even amid the utter chaos around them.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ageism in the modern era

By CAROLYN BUCK
THE BALTIMORE SUN



TNS

Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton speaks at the Commemoration of the Bicentennial of the Birth of Frederick Douglass, in Emancipation Hall of the U.S. Capitol, on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018.

A recent article by Akiko Busch in The Atlantic, titled "The Invisibility of Older Women," struck a deep chord. Having turned 65 last month, I have been welcomed, on more than one occasion, to the age of Medicare. In addition to this milestone, I became a grandmother for the first time in late January. This blessed event brought with it as many questions about whether I'd be called "Grandmom or Granny" as it did about my eagerness to babysit and prepare freezer meals for the busy new parents.

At a time when younger women have a wealth of female role models over 60, ranging from Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (85) to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (78) to German Chancellor Angela Merkel (64), why do so many women of my generation continue to feel compelled to raise awareness and sensitivity to ageism in 2019? Many close friends and I have recently reinvented ourselves in new careers, despite encountering along the way colleagues and a supervisor or two guilty of prejudiced phrases such as, "at your age," "at this stage in your career" or one of the most infuriating, "isn't it time just to slow down and smell the roses?"

Take the recent Michael Cohen hearing as an example. Eleanor Holmes Norton, appointed by President Jimmy Carter as the first female chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 1977, has gone on to serve 15 terms as the delegate at large representing the District of Columbia in the. House of Representatives. At age 81, she asked sharp and probing questions during the Cohen hearing. Doing the meaningful work of a civil rights advocate is nothing new to Norton.

Norton was not the media focus in the day's coverage of Cohen's testimony. That was 29-year-old superstar Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who emerged once again as the media darling and designated "future" of the Democratic Party. Not to pit young against old, but with age comes experience. One can only hope that the "future" will stand on the shoulders of experience and wisdom.

Open-minded millennials realize this, explaining partially why Ginsburg has achieved superhero popularity. A younger colleague of mine told me, "RBG is every girl's dream Bubbie. She's progressive, famous, brilliant and beautiful in her younger days." The young colleague then wisely added, "No, not only in her younger days. RBG is still a beauty."

It is important to note that ageism isn't necessarily limited to the "invisibility of older women." My husband admits to being guilty of repeatedly stating his concerns about a Joe Biden presidential candidacy. I've lost count of the times he has commented with exasperation, "The man is 76." To that I always come back with a well-memorized litany of heroes: "Winston Churchill served until age 90"; "look at the queen still going strong at 92."

My baby boomer friends and I aren't superstars, but I can vouch for the fact that many are doing exciting new things. One runs marathons; another is researching and writing a book. Another longtime colleague with a distinguished career in education now chairs a board. Beyond the traditional roles in retirement, I have female friends who are now political activists and fundraisers. Those who have chosen to spend their days babysitting grandchildren are doing so because not only are they enriching their grandchildren's lives, but also are providing much-needed support to their own sons and daughters working hard in important careers. These are anything but "invisible older women."

Only last week, I learned of the passing of a former colleague and friend, a nun with whom I worked over 30 years ago. This sister lived as a member of a supportive and loving religious community until her death at age 98. She donated her body to science for research on aging among religious women, many of whom have spent their long careers as teachers. Perhaps the findings of this research will further validate the importance of living one's life with a sense of purpose, free of ageist social bias against older women.

Carolyn Buck (bucklaz@aol.com) is a local writer and performing arts educator. She is a teaching artist at Baltimore Center Stage.

Beware the liars among us

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is a board of trustees distinguished professor of English literature at University of Connecticut and the author of 10 books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.

Some people are born into money; I was born into deceit. I've been watching the news over the last week, focused especially on the Michael Cohen hearings, the way some folks watch home movies.

I grew up around liars. Liars can be enormously entertaining, affable and big-hearted people, even if you can't rely on anything they say. They're fun in the short term. Good liars make you forget yourself, lose yourself and shoulder their guilt as your own. You end up taking the blame for what they do.

That's one reason they're dangerous.

It's uncomfortable to believe that those on whom we must rely—our parents, our priests, or our presidents—would take advantage of our vulnerability and dupe us. We're equipped, sometimes tragically, sometimes comically, to figure out ways to convince ourselves that the cozy lie is good enough to pass for the truth.

True story: More than 50 years ago, one of my aunts wanted to marry a man who'd been divorced. Nobody could figure out how she was going to get this through the Roman Catholic Church. With absolute confidence, however, she assured her mother and siblings that she'd figured it out. She arranged for a big reception in a rented hall but invited only an intimate group to the religious ceremony, which would be held at a church in a different neighborhood.

Invitations were sent.

As instructed, 30 family members piled into five cars and showed up at the church, only to discover the couple wasn't there. There were no signs of a wedding. They checked the invitations, looked at each other, checked the address of the hall for the party and got back in the cars.

At the hall, a hundred people were already celebrating. "What happened?" they asked the bride, who was wearing a white dress and a wedding ring. "Can you believe it? We put the wrong church on the invitation! Let's eat."

What could they say? "Are you kidding? Do you actually expect us to believe that story?" Nope. They laughed; they shrugged their shoulders. They ate and asked for more provolone. It's unclear to this day where, or whether, they actually married. But whatever happened had already happened. What was the big deal?

The big deal was that, even as a kid, I knew my beloved aunt and uncle were liars. Because they expected us to pretend along with them, we became liars, too. At first I was confused. Then I felt ashamed. Sure, it became a story. But I'm still a little ashamed—and also humiliated.

Nobody lies to people they respect. People lie to chumps, doormats and clowns. If you expect others to enter into the lie with you, you must approach them with contempt.

Whether the lie is proffered by a family member, delivered by a manipulative boss, issued by a greedy corporation or pronounced by a corrupt leader, liars assume that those who will pass false information along are willing to accept commensurate self-degradation out of fear, self-interest or a craving for approval.

But when you launder a lie, pass it along as the truth, put it into cultural and social circulation, it's as if you're handling dirty money. You hope nobody looks at it too closely or holds it up to the light for examination. It's Gresham's law, adapted: the counterfeit currency of lying will inexorably drive out the more valuable currency of truth.

The most honest exchange last week happened when Kentucky Republican James Comer tried to corner Michael Cohen with a tricky question: "If Trump is a cheat, what are you?"

Despite his professional proclivities, this time Cohen went straight for the truth: "A fool," Cohen answered, without hesitation.

The truth can be starkly funny, especially when it comes as a surprise.

The primal enemy of any collective good has always been the con artist, the cheat and the deceiver, the one who tells you what you want to hear at the expense of that which you need to understand.

Given that the shared understanding of truth has been central to language, religion and society, when we ignore small lies, we inflict damage on the larger truth.

This is not holiness we're talking about, but wholeness and integrity. When they serve you a lie, walk away from the table. Don't let anybody make you forget what you know.

HARSH

From Page 10

deserving asylum the answer they need sooner, cutting back on the years they spend in limbo, while no longer incentivizing those unqualified for asylum to try anyway.

Fundamentally, the current system hasn't worked for years, and it has gotten worse. Congress and the president need to work together to develop a more capable system that manages the many different aspects of immigration in the best interests of the nation while accommodating the rights of the persecuted to seek asylum.

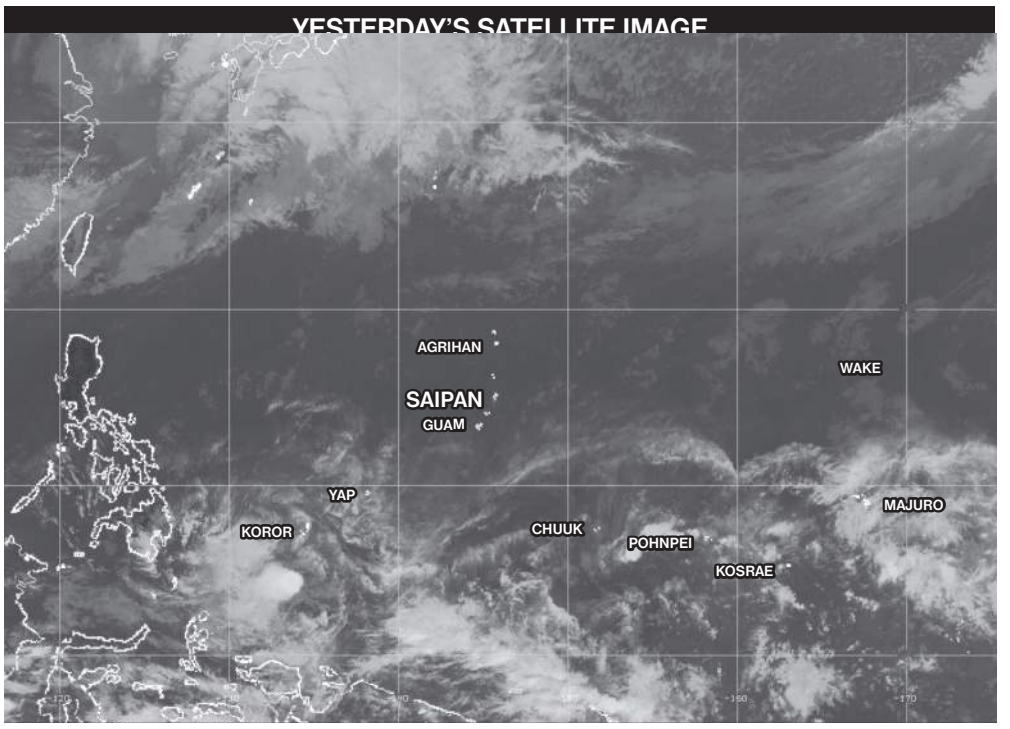
(c)2019 *Los Angeles Times*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy. A slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy. A slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
87° 76°	87° 76°	87° 76°	87° 76°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:36 AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mainly dry weather will prevail across the Marianas through the coming week. Mostly sunny skies are expected today. Mostly cloudy skies will prevail tonight and Monday. These clouds will be generated by trade-wind convergence. Despite the clouds, only isolated showers are expected as deep layer moisture will be lacking.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	84° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 63°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	59° / 32°
Hong Kong	Sunny	73° / 66°
Honolulu	Windy	80° / 68°
London	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 43°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	62° / 49°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 75°
Melbourne	Rain	66° / 52°
Miami	Sunny	81° / 71°
New York	Mostly Sunny	52° / 32°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	54° / 43°
Busan	Sunny	57° / 37°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	63° / 43°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 50°
San Francisco	Sunny	57° / 48°
Seoul	Sunny	48° / 28°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	63° / 45°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	58° / 34°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:28 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.57
10:22 AM	LOW TIDE	1.83
5:04 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.35
11:08 PM	LOW TIDE	1.66

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Tuesday	6:27 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:26 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:26 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:24 AM	10:10 PM	-
Tuesday	10:06 AM	11:03 PM	-
Wednesday	10:51 AM	11:58 PM	-
Thursday	11:41 AM	-	-
Friday	-	12:55 AM	12:35 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 5, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:00pm	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/1936:25pm		11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	6:25pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	00:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:50pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

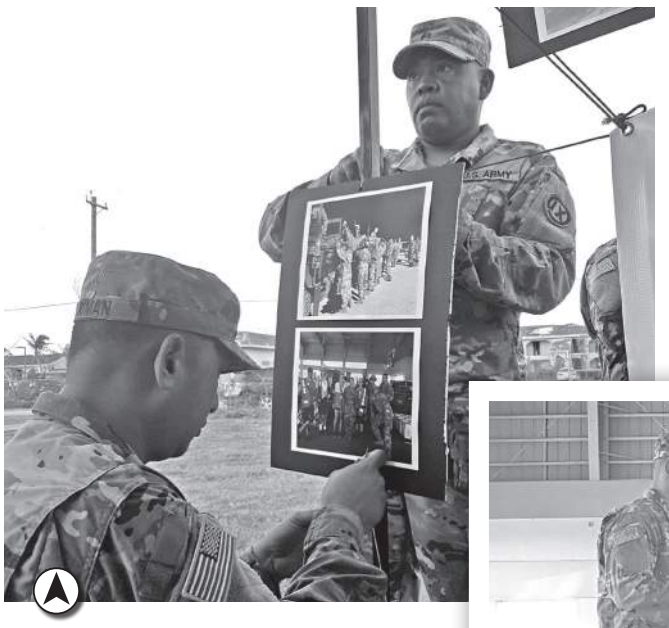
TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

JROTC Drill Meet

Army Staff Sgt. Charlie Gabertan, a soldier with 368th Military Police Company, 9th Mission Support Command, assesses a cadet during in platoon basic drill as part of the 2019 CNMI Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Drill Meet last March 3 at the Koblerville Gym on Saipan. Gabertan was one of 12 soldiers from the 9th MSC who volunteered to support the 2019 CNMI JROTC Drill Meet.

ARMY MASTER SGT. EDWARD DAILEG



Army Sgt. Charles Nicholas and SPC Jeffrey Riman, 302nd Quartermaster Company, 9th Mission Support Command, set up mission photos at the 9th MSC static display during the 2019 CNMI Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Drill Meet on March 3 at the Koblerville Gym on Saipan. Soldiers at the static display spoke to the drill meet guests and participants about the capabilities of their equipment and the benefits of joining the U.S. Army Reserves.

ARMY MASTER SGT. EDWARD DAILEG

From left, Army Sgt. Shane Castro, 368th Military Police Company, Army Staff Sgt. Charlie Garbertan, 368th Military Police Company, and Army Sgt. Magic Cabrera, E Co., 100TH BN, 442nd INF, 9th Mission Support Command, gather their score sheets during the CNMI Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Drill Meet last March 3 at the Koblerville Gym. The three soldiers were among the 12 who volunteered to support the 2019 CNMI JROTC Drill Meet.

ARMY MASTER SGT. EDWARD DAILEG

Army Staff Sgt. Joseph Villacrusis, a soldier with 302nd Quartermaster Company, 9th Mission Support Command, assesses a cadet as she sounds off with an answer during the Unarmed Inspection and Regulation portion of the CNMI Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Drill Meet last March 3 at the Koblerville Gym. Villacrusis was one of 12 soldiers from the 9th MSC who volunteered to support the 2019 CNMI JROTC Drill Meet.

ARMY MASTER SGT. EDWARD DAILEG

JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc.
dba: Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant
Kinpachi BBQ Garden Restaurant

Assistant Manager (1): Be able to assist the general manager in the supervision of business establishment to ensure the restaurant & stores efficiency & profitable operations; work closely with the personnel in preparation & processing of reservations, greets & answers customers inquiry, patrons complaints & resolve problems. Prepare advertising campaigns of the restaurant & stores to attract customers. Assist in doing daily inventory of foods, merchandise and assets of the business. Duties include but are not limited to delegating authority & assigning responsibilities, reviewing financial transactions & monitoring budget limitations, & be able to present written & oral reports on the company's financial & operational status. Must have Japanese oral skills & knowledge of Japanese food products.

Restaurant Supervisor (2): Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Must be responsible for the supervision of staff as to dining areas cleanliness in appearance & outside grounds. Ensure any customers issues are addressed immediately and resolved in a manner which exceeds the customer's expectation. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations.

Accountant (1): Efficient in handling financial records, statements & reports. Analyze financial information & prepare entries to accounts such as general ledgers. Reports & records daily transactions, do filing & bookkeeping. Prepare financial statements, taxes, bank deposits balance sheets, profit & loss statements & other reports. Petty cash custodian, maintain inventory records. Estimates purchasing costs & requisitions of merchandise, items needed in the store, rest. & building maintenance or purchase merchandise, items to be sold or use.

Restaurant Waitress (1): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

Cook (4): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

General Maintenance (3): Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing , repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including holidays, weekends and night time schedules.

Applicants of all positions listed above **except Restaurant Waitress (1-3 months work experience)** are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience.

Application by phone call will not be accepted.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered.
Interested applicants must apply in person; applications can be picked up at MISA Building Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

Brilliant Star School

Global Understanding • Service to Humanity • Exemplary Character • Creative Minds

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION/TITLE: Principal/Head of School
OPENING DATE: March 1, 2019
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 22, 2019

NATURE OF WORK:
The primary role of the Principal is to articulate the vision and mission of the school, provide academic leadership, take leadership in the admissions and recruitment process, build community among students and families: recruit and coach faculty members and staff, oversee the financial health of the school, serve as the school's primary spokesperson to the larger community, and lead the process of internal self-evaluation and long-term planning. The activities of the Principal are guided by the Board of Trustees.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Graduation from U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Education or related field, plus at least two years of teaching experience and two years of supervisory experience in a similar setting. A background in Montessori teaching or knowledge thereof is a plus.

SALARY/BENEFITS:
Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (Including 401K benefits, Health insurance, Paid Leave/Holidays.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:
- Good interpersonal and communication skills. Communicate effectively both orally and in writing, including giving and receiving feedback.
- Awareness of and sensitivity to cultural issues and local community practices.
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to motivate others to reach their fullest potential.
- Excellent Office Automation Skills (Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Social Media).
- Excellent Record Keeping Skills/Filing & Document Management.
- Ability to adapt to changing situations.

Interested Applicants may obtain full job description and employment application form at the Brilliant Star office on Navy Hill or via email to Richard Sikkel at principal@brilliantstar.org. Completed application forms and required documents may be submitted at the Brilliant Star office or via email at principal@brilliantstar.org. The Brilliant Star office can be reached for inquires at (670) 323-7827

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:
1. Completed Brilliant Star Employment Application form
2. Resume
3. Copy of Diploma

Other documents may be requested and must be submitted to be considered for this position. Your application must be received on or before the submission deadline.

Business

As budget deficit balloons, few in Washington seem to care

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal budget deficit is ballooning on President Donald Trump's watch and few in Washington seem to care.

And even if they did, the political dynamics that enabled bipartisan deficit-cutting deals decades ago has disappeared, replaced by bitter partisanship and chronic dysfunction.

That's the reality that will greet Trump's latest budget , which will promptly be shelved after landing with a thud on Monday. Like previous spending blueprints, Trump's plan for the 2020 budget year will propose cuts to many domestic programs favored by lawmakers in both parties but leave alone politically popular retirement programs such as Medicare and Social Security.

Washington probably will devote months to wrestling over erasing the last remnants of a failed 2011 budget deal that would otherwise cut core Pentagon operations by $71 billion and domestic agencies and foreign aid by $55 billion. Top lawmakers are pushing for a reprise of three prior deals to use spending cuts or new revenues and prop up additional spending rather than defray deficits that are again approaching $1 trillion.

It's put deficit hawks in a gloomy mood.

"The president doesn't care. The leadership of the Democratic Party doesn't care," said former Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H. "And social media is in stampede mode."

Trump's budget arrives as the latest Treasury Department figures show a 77 percent spike in the deficit over the first four months of the budget year, driven by falling revenues and steady growth in spending.

Trump's 2017 tax cut bears much of the blame, along with sharp increases in spending for both the Pentagon and domestic agencies and the growing federal retirement costs of the baby boom generation. Promises that the tax cut would stir so much economic growth that it would mostly pay for itself have been proved woefully wrong.

Trump's upcoming budget, however, won't address any of the main factors behind the growing, intractable deficits that have driven the U.S. debt above $22 trillion. Its most striking proposed cuts — to domestic agency operations — were rejected when tea party Republicans controlled the House, and they face equally grim prospects now that Democrats are in the majority.

Trump has given no indication he's much interested in the deficit and he's rejected any idea of curbing Medicare or Social Security, the massive federal retirement programs whose imbalances are the chief deficit drivers.

An administration official said Friday that the president's plan promises to balance the budget in 15 years. The official was not authorized to publicly discuss specifics about the budget before the document's official release and spoke on condition of anonymity

Democrats have witnessed the retirement of a generation of lawmakers who came up in the 1980s and 1990s and negotiated deficit-cutting deals in 1990 and 1993. But those agreements came at significant political cost to both President George H.W. Bush, who lost re-election, and President Bill Clinton, whose party lost control of Congress in 1995.

But the moderate wing of the Democratic Party has withered with the electoral wipeout of "Blue Dog" Democrats at the hands of tea party forces over recent election cycles.

"Concern about the deficit is so woefully out of fashion that it's hard to even imagine it coming back into fashion," said Rep. Jim Cooper, D-Tenn., one of his party's few remaining deficit hawks. "This is as out of fashion as bell bottoms."

AP

President Donald Trump talks with reporters outside the White House before traveling to Alabama to visit areas affected by the deadly tornadoes, Friday, March 8, 2019, in Washington.

French yellow vest protests tense despite dwindling numbers

PARIS (AP)—Thousands of French yellow vest protesters marched for a 17th straight weekend in Paris and other cities, with tensions at times but dwindling numbers.

There were no signs of the serious clashes or violence that was a hallmark of some past demonstrations.

The Interior Ministry counted 28,600 protesters around France by day's end—more than 10,000 less than a week earlier, French media reported. It said 3,000 protesters gathered in the French capital.

Police fired tear gas and used water cannons at the end of the Paris demonstration. Some in the crowd had their faces covered in black and carried black flags, refusing to leave the Champs-Elysees, the capital's main avenue where a peaceful march began hours earlier.

Some sang in defiance at the lines of riot police. A bare-chested man faced down the bursts from the water cannons in chilly weather. But there was no rioting like that seen during the height of some past protests when demonstrators burned cars, hurled rocks and even bicycles at police officers and smashed storefronts.

Overall, the numbers of protesters in the yellow vest movement, which held its first nationwide protests Nov. 17, have been steadily declining despite new tactics to encourage participation. A planned weekend sit-in near the Eiffel Tower flopped Friday night when police dismantled wooden structures a group had been setting up.

The grassroots movement still counts on a huge turnout next Saturday, marking its four-month anniversary.

The Paris protest started with a festive note with women, some carrying pink balloons, leading a calm and orderly march while advocating for equal rights and equal pay a day after International Women's Day.

The march, which began at the Arc de Triomphe, at the top of the Champs-Elysees, looped through both sides of the Seine River before ending at the top of Luxembourg Gardens on the Left Bank.

Marches were also held in numerous cities around France, including Bordeaux, which has a strong contingent of yellow vest protesters, Lille, and Le Puy-en-Velay, in south-central France, where hundreds joined from other regions. Many shopkeepers there boarded up their businesses in advance. Protesters had burned the regional prefecture in the town in especially violent protests on Dec. 1. President Emmanuel Macron later visited Le Puy-en-Velay.

Polls have shown support by the French fading because of violence and costs to shopkeepers who preventatively close stores to protect wares as well as to France's image abroad.

The movement, named after the fluorescent emergency vests the French are required to keep in their cars, held its first nationwide protest by blocking vehicles at traffic circles. The main complaint then was fuel tax hikes, but that long ago expanded to an array of demands to maintain pressure on the government to reverse policies they see as favoring the rich. Calls for a citizens' referendum is now among top demands on the list, along with increased purchasing power.

China's Yi affirms pledge to avoid devaluation for trade

BEIJING (AP)—China's central bank governor on Sunday affirmed an official promise to avoid manipulating its currency to boost exports, an issue he said American and Chinese negotiators discussed in their latest talks aimed at ending a tariff war.

Yi Gang gave no indication the two sides reached agreements beyond previous commitments produced by meetings of the Group of 20 major economies. He spoke at a news conference during the annual meeting of China's ceremonial legislature.

"We stress that we will never use the exchange rate for competitive purposes, nor will we use it to boost China's exports," Yi said.

Yi took part in the latest talks in Washington aimed at ending a conflict over Beijing's technology ambitions that has prompted both sides to raise tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's goods. That has fueled fears it might depress slowing global economic growth.

U.S. complaints that Beijing manipulates the yuan's government-controlled exchange rate for a trade advantage have taken a backseat lately to frustration at its industrial policy. But American officials still are pressing China to allow the yuan to fluctuate more freely in response to market forces.

"We discussed that both sides should abide by the commitments made at previous G20 summits, such as refraining from competitive devaluation and using exchange rates for competitive purposes," Yi said.

Negotiators also discussed "how to respect the right of each other's monetary authority in deciding its own monetary policy," said Yi. He said they discussed the importance of "the principle of a market-determined exchange rate regime."

U.S. and Chinese officials say the trade talks are making progress but no formal agreements or details of negotiations have been released.

The Trump administration is pressing Beijing to scale back plans for government-led creation of global competitors in robotics and other technology. Negotiators also want the communist government to curb subsidies for state industry and to commit to ending cyberspying to obtain trade secrets.

The Chinese central bank has widened the band within which the yuan is allowed to fluctuate against a dollar-dominated basket of currencies, but the maximum daily change is limited to 2 percent.

Beijing tries to keep the yuan at a "reasonable and balanced level," Yi said. He said regulators were moving "toward a more market-determined mechanism."

Nation

Pot-litics: 2020 Democrats line up behind legalization

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A growing list of Democratic presidential contenders want the U.S. government to legalize marijuana, reflecting a nationwide shift as more Americans look favorably on cannabis.

Making marijuana legal at the federal level is the "smart thing to do," says California Sen. Kamala Harris, a former prosecutor whose home state is the nation's largest legal pot shop. New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, a prominent legalization advocate on Capitol Hill, says the war on drugs has been a "war on people."

Former Texas Congressman Beto O'Rourke, who appears poised to join the 2020 Democratic field, has written a book arguing marijuana legalization would hobble drug cartels. In an email to supporters this week, he called again to end the federal prohibition on marijuana.

"Who is going to be the last man—more likely than not a black man—to languish behind bars for possessing or using marijuana when it is legal in some form in more than half of the states in this country?" O'Rourke wrote.

AP
In this March 1, 2019 file photo Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., speaks at the Black Enterprise Women of Power Summit, in Las Vegas.

It's a far different approach from the not-so-distant past, when it was seen as politically damaging to acknowledge smoking pot and no major presidential candidate backed legalization.

In 1992, then-White House candidate Bill Clinton delivered a famously tortured response about a youthful dalliance with cannabis, claiming he tried it as a graduate student in England but "didn't inhale." And two decades before that, President Richard Nixon unleashed a war on marijuana and other drugs and it helped carry him to a second term.

This year, leading Democrats hold similar positions supporting legalization. Presidential hopefuls in the Senate who have co-sponsored Booker's legislation to end the federal prohibition include Harris, New York's Kirsten Gillibrand, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Vermont's Bernie Sanders, who campaigned on decriminalizing pot in his 2016 presidential bid.

Another 2020 Democratic candidate, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, supports legalization and believes states should have the right to determine how to handle marijuana regulation within their borders but hasn't signed on to Booker's legislation.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who entered the contest this month, said in his announcement speech it's "about time" to legalize the drug nationally.

During his 2012 run for governor, Inslee opposed the ballot initiative that made Washington one of the first two states to legalize so-called recreational marijuana. As governor, however, he has frequently touted what he describes as Washington's successful experiment with regulation and has urged the Obama and Trump administrations not to intervene. He recently began pardoning people with small-time marijuana convictions.

The widespread endorsement for national marijuana reform among Democrats tracks the nation's evolving views.

In the late 1960s—the era of Woodstock and Vietnam—12 percent of Americans supported legalization, according to the Gallup poll. By last year, the figure hit a record 66 percent. About 75 percent of Democrats support legalization, along with a slim majority of Republicans.

Trump signed Bibles. Heresy? Many religious leaders say no

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—President Donald Trump was just doing what he could to raise spirits when he signed Bibles at an Alabama church for survivors of a tornado outbreak, many religious leaders say, though some are offended and others say he could have handled it differently.

Hershael York, dean of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary School of Theology in Louisville, Kentucky, said he didn't have a problem with Trump signing Bibles, like former presidents have, because he was asked and because it was important to the people who were asking.

"Though we don't have a national faith, there is faith in our nation, and so it's not at all surprising that people would have politicians sign their Bibles," he said. "Those Bibles are meaningful to them and apparently these politicians are, too."

But the Rev. Donnie Anderson, executive minister of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, said she was offended by the way Trump scrawled his signature Friday as he autographed Bibles and other things, including hats, and posed for photos. She viewed it, she said, as a "calculated political move" by the Republican president to court his evangelical voting base.

Presidents have a long history of signing Bibles, though earlier presidents typically signed them as gifts to send with a spiritual message. President Ronald Reagan signed a Bible that was sent secretly to Iranian officials in 1986. President Franklin Roosevelt signed the family Bible his attorney general used to take the oath of office in 1939.

It would have been different, Anderson said, if Trump had signed a Bible out of the limelight for someone with whom he had a close connection.

"For me, the Bible is a very important part of my faith, and I don't think it should be used as a political ploy," she said. "I saw it being used just as something out there to symbolize his support for the evangelical community, and it shouldn't be used in that way. People should have more respect for Scripture."

York said that he, personally, would not ask a politician to sign a Bible, but that he has been asked to sign Bibles after he preaches. It feels awkward, he said, but he doesn't refuse.

"If it's meaningful to them to have signatures in their Bible, I'm willing to do that," he said.

A request for comment was left with the White House on Saturday, a day after Trump visited Alabama to survey the devastation and pay respects to tornado victims. The tornado carved a path of destruction nearly a mile wide, killing 23 people, including four children and a couple in their 80s, with 10 victims belonging to a single extended family.

At the Providence Baptist Church in Smiths Station, Alabama, the Rev. Rusty Sowell said, the president's visit was uplifting and will help bring attention to a community that will need a long time to recover.

Before leaving the church, Trump posed for a photograph with a fifth-grade volunteer and signed the child's Bible, said Ada Ingram, a local volunteer. The president also signed her sister's Bible, Ingram said. In photos from the visit, Trump is shown signing the cover of a Bible.

Trump should have at least signed inside in a less ostentatious way, said the Rev. Dr. Kevin Cassiday-Maloney.

"It just felt like hubris," said Cassiday-Maloney, pastor at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fargo, North Dakota. "It almost felt like a desecration of the holy book to put his signature on the front writ large, literally."

He doesn't think politicians should sign Bibles, he said, because it could be seen as a blurring of church and state and an endorsement of Christianity over other religions.

ACROSS THE NATION

Turbulence injures 30 on flight from Istanbul to New York

NEW YORK (AP)—Severe turbulence over the Atlantic Ocean tossed terrified passengers and crew around a Turkish Airlines plane cabin on Saturday, with 30 people suffering bumps, bruises, cuts and a broken leg before the flight landed safely at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, officials said. Dozens of ambulances lined up in front of a terminal to quickly treat the injured coming off the flight that left Istanbul for the 10-hour trip. Spokesman Steve Coleman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey told The Associated Press that 28 people were taken to Jamaica Hospital Medical Center in Queens after the plane touched down at 5:35 p.m. Two went to Queens Hospital Medical Center. A flight attendant suffered a broken leg, Coleman said. Turkish Airlines Flight 1 hit the turbulence about 45 minutes before landing at JFK, Coleman said. The crew declared an emergency while the Boeing 777 was still in the air, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Police: Chicago officer shot, one person in custody

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago police say an officer was shot while executing a warrant and one person was taken into custody. Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson says the incident happened Saturday night on the city's West Side as police attempted to execute a warrant for narcotics and illegal weapons. Johnson says a shot was fired through a rear door and the 34-year-old officer was struck in the shoulder. The officer was transported to a nearby hospital. Johnson says he is in stable but critical condition, and he's in "good spirits." Police say a woman was taken into custody. Additional details about her were not immediately available. Johnson says the officer has been on the job for more than 4 years and was a U.S. Marine before joining the department.

Earthquake hits central part of Alaska; no damage reported

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP)—The Alaska Earthquake Center says a small quake has hit the central part of the state. The center says the magnitude 3.7 earthquake hit an area 18 miles (29 kilometers) south of Fairbanks, the state's second-largest city, at 2:39 p.m. Saturday. The earthquake had a depth of 13 miles (21 kilometers,) The center says the earthquake was felt in Fairbanks, North Pole, Fort Wainwright, and Eielson Air Force Base. There are no reports of damage. On Nov. 30, a powerful magnitude 7.1 earthquake hit south-central Alaska. The earthquake buckled roads, and homes and buildings sustained heavy damage. There have been thousands of aftershocks since.

Asia

Mahathir: China should define claims in South China Sea

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Thursday that China should define its "so-called ownership" in the disputed South China Sea so other claimant countries can start to gain benefits from the resource-rich waters.

Mahathir stressed the importance of freedom of navigation in the busy waterway, saying in an interview with ABS-CBN News Channel in Manila that if there were no restrictions and sanctions, "the claims made by China will not affect us very much."

Malaysia, the Philippines, China and three other governments have been locked in long-simmering territorial disputes in the South China Sea. China has claimed virtually the entire sea but has refused to define the extent of its claims except for a vague line with nine dashes on its maps, complicating the disputes.

Efforts by the Philippines, for example, to explore for undersea deposits of oil and natural gas in Reed Bank west of its Palawan island province have been stymied for years by Chinese protests and claims to the offshore region. The Philippines has declared a moratorium on exploration in the area in the past because of Chinese threats.

"We have to talk to China on the definition of their claims and what is meant by their ownership or so-called ownership they claim to have so that we can find ways of deriving some benefits from them," Mahathir said.

"I think that whatever may be the claim of China, the most important thing is that the South China Sea in particular must be open to navigation," Mahathir said. "There should be no restriction, no sanction, and if that happens, then I think the claims made by China will not affect us very much."

During talks in Manila between the visiting Malaysian leader and President Rodrigo Duterte, the territorial conflicts were high in the agenda.

"We emphasized the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety and freedom of navigation and overflight over the South China Sea," Duterte said after the meeting, adding that force or the threat of it should not be resorted to.

Duterte thanked Malaysia for brokering peace talks between the Philippine government and Muslim guerrillas in the south, homeland of minority Muslims in the largely Roman Catholic nation. The rebels have become leaders of a new Muslim autonomous region in the country's south under a peace deal.

The Malaysian leader, who at 93 is the world's oldest prime minister, visited the Philippines as his country's leader in 1987 and 1994.

AP

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, left, and visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad watches a cultural show during arrival ceremonies at the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila, Philippines on Thursday, March 7, 2019.

Analysts: Normal operations restored at NKorean launch site

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—U.S. analysts say North Korea appears to have restored normal operations at a long-range rocket launch site it had partially dismantled last year as part of disarmament steps.

Some experts say North Korea is trying to convey displeasure over the breakdown of a high-stakes nuclear summit last week between leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump over what the Americans said were Kim's excessive demands for sanctions relief.

North Korea's state media on Friday acknowledged for the first time that the summit ended without an agreement. But the Rodong Sinmun, which primarily targets the domestic audience, held back from criticizing the United States and instead berated "detestable" Japan for supposedly celebrating the "unexpected" setback and supporting sanctions against the North.

The United States and North Korea accused each other of causing the breakdown of the talks in Vietnam, but both sides left the door open for future negotiations.

North Korea-focused website 38 North said Thursday that commercial satellite images from March 6 indicate that the launch site appears to have returned to "normal operational status" following rapid construction to rebuild a launch pad and a rocket engine test stand.

The Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies published similar findings and said the North's actions amount to a "snapback" from the moderate dismantlement it undertook following the first Trump-Kim summit last June.

"The rebuilding activities at Sohae demonstrate how quickly North Korea can easily render reversible any steps taken toward scrapping its WMD program with little hesitation," the CSIS said in a study authored by Joseph Bermudez and Victor Cha. "This poses challenges for the U.S. goal of final, irreversible and verifiable denuclearization."

Trump said he's a "little disappointed" by the reports of the new North Korean activity and that time will tell if U.S. diplomacy with the reclusive country will be successful.

The Sohae satellite launching center in Tongchang-ri, a seaside region in western North Korea, is where the North carried out satellite launches in recent years, resulting in U.N. sanctions over claims that they were disguised tests of banned missile technology.

Some experts see the North as trying to put pressure on Washington and Seoul, which has acted as a mediator, to make a deal by creating an impression that it could resume missile or rocket tests.

South Korea's spy agency has also told lawmakers in a closed-door intelligence briefing that increased vehicle movement was detected at a missile research center on the outskirts of Pyongyang where the North is believed to build long-range missiles targeting the U.S. mainland.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said Thursday that it is carefully monitoring North Korean nuclear and missile facilities and that the U.S. and South Korean militaries were closely coordinating intelligence over the developments at Tongchang-ri and the missile research center.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Tibetan activists in India mark uprising's 60th anniversary

NEW DELHI (AP)—Tibetan activists put up posters and hoisted a Tibetan flag in India's capital on Sunday to mark the 60th anniversary of 1959 uprising against Chinese rule. Activists were assembling in New Delhi and planned to march later in the day. Police in riot gear were patrolling the streets. March 10 is the 60th anniversary of the abortive uprising, which resulted in the flight of Tibet's traditional Buddhist leader, the Dalai Lama, into exile in India. Nearly five decades later in 2008, anger exploded in a series of protests in an around Tibetan capital, Lhasa, that culminated in attacks on Chinese individuals and businesses.

China sets aside crops for wild elephants to spare farmers

BEIJING (AP)—China said it plans to grow crops specifically for wild elephants to graze on in an effort to spare the livelihoods of local farmers. The southwestern province of Yunnan will set up the special farm in a habitat protection area in Menghai county where 18 of the animals frequently raid the crops of farmers from villages in the area. The 51-hectare (126-acre) farm will grow corn, sugarcane, bamboo and bananas. The official Xinhua News Agency quoted an unidentified official with the local forestry bureau as saying protecting local residents was key to Asian elephant conservation Wild Asian elephants are a protected species in China, and conservation efforts have allowed their numbers in the country to rise to about 300. As is the case with their African cousins, Asian elephants are critically endangered due to habitat destruction and poaching. An estimated 30,000 are left in the wild.

Italian envoy confirms deaths of 2 climbers in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Two European mountain climbers who went missing on the Pakistani mountain Nanga Parbat, the world's ninth-tallest, were confirmed dead Saturday by Italy's ambassador to Pakistan. Ambassador Stefano Pontecorvo tweeted that the search for Italian Daniele Nardi and Briton Tom Ballard ended after a team confirmed that silhouettes spotted at a height of about 5,900 meters (19,356 feet) were the bodies of the two climbers missing since Feb 24. Karrar Haidri, secretary of the Pakistan Alpine Club, said Pakistani authorities had done all they could to find the climbers. Pakistan dispatched helicopters carrying four rescuers led by Spanish mountaineer Alex Txikon, despite the closure of its airspace amid tensions with neighboring India over the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir. He said foul weather hindered their efforts. Txikon and his team spotted two silhouettes near where the missing climbers were last seen. The Italian ambassador shared telescopic pictures taken by Txikon, who concluded the silhouettes were the bodies of the men, who went missing in bad weather.

World

More blackouts hit Venezuela as opposition, govt rally

AP

A supporter of Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro sings a song about the late President Hugo Chavez as she holds an image depicting him during a government rally in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, March 9, 2019.

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—The Venezuelan opposition and government loyalists held rival demonstrations in Caracas on Saturday, as both sides prepared for what some fear could be a protracted power struggle.

The rallies unfolded as power and communications outages continued to hit Venezuela, intensifying the hardship of a country paralyzed by economic and political crisis. The blackouts heightened tension between the bitterly divided factions, which accused each other of being responsible for the collapse of the power grid.

"Hard times are ahead," said opposition leader Juan Guaido, who addressed crowds with a loudspeaker after security forces earlier dismantled a speakers' stage that the opposition had erected. He said he planned to tour Venezuela to seek support and lay the groundwork for a massive rally in Caracas.

The 35-year-old leader of the National Assembly said he anticipated more government efforts to sideline and intimidate the opposition. However, President Nicolas Maduro's government has not moved directly against Guaido since he returned to Venezuela from a Latin American tour Monday.

Guaido earlier speculated that Maduro was effectively ignoring him in an attempt to sap the energy of the opposition, whose hopes of ousting the government have so far been stymied.

But on Saturday, Maduro stepped up verbal attacks on Guaido, calling him "a clown and puppet" in a speech to supporters outside Miraflores, the presidential palace. He scoffed at Guaido's claim in late January to be interim president of Venezuela, a declaration supported by the United States and about 50 other countries.

"Not a president, not anything," said Maduro, who accused Guaido and his U.S. allies of sabotaging Venezuela's Guri Dam, one of the world's largest hydroelectric stations and the cornerstone of Venezuela's electrical grid.

He said authorities had restored 70 percent of power in Venezuela since what he called an "international cyberattack" late Thursday, but progress was lost on Saturday when "infiltrators" allegedly struck again.

The Venezuelan opposition and U.S. officials say Maduro's attempts to pin blame on his political adversaries is absurd, and that government corruption and mismanagement over many years caused the blackout and wider deterioration of the economy.

In another blow to Venezuela's infrastructure, an explosion occurred at a power station in the country's Bolivar state on Saturday, according to local media. Video posted on social media showed fire and smoke billowing from the site. Venezuelan authorities have not commented.

Netblocks, a non-government group based in Europe that monitors internet censorship, said Saturday that the second outage had knocked out almost all of Venezuela's telecommunications infrastructure.

Earlier, it referred to online connectivity data indicating that the initial outage that began Thursday and eased about 24 hours later was the largest on recent record in Latin America.

Managers of the Caracas subway said they were waiting for the electricity supply to stabilize before resuming service, and the power grid problems quickly became only another issue that galvanized Venezuelans to take to the streets.

Opposition protesters who converged on Avenida Victoria in Caracas vented anger over the country's problems, including hyperinflation and shortages of basic necessities. They pushed against the shields of riot police who avoided a clash by withdrawing from the area.

Some protesters elsewhere in the city said police tried to block them from reaching the rally, creating a sense of confusion as power and communications outages plagued the country.

"This is chaos," said Jorge Jaimes, a physician frustrated with the decline of a country that was once the wealthiest in Latin America.

Ebola treatment center in Congo is attacked again; 1 dead

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—Heavily armed assailants again attacked an Ebola treatment center in the heart of eastern Congo's deadly outbreak on Saturday, with one police officer killed and health workers injured, authorities said, while frightened patients waited in isolation rooms for the gunfire to end.

The early-morning attack in Butembo came less than a week after the treatment center reopened following an attack last month, which forced Doctors Without Borders to suspend operations in the city amid warnings that ending this outbreak is impossible if health workers aren't protected.

Dozens of armed groups are active in mineral-rich eastern Congo, though some have allowed health workers access to administer Ebola vaccines and track contacts of infected people after delicate negotiations.

Security forces on Saturday repelled the attackers, one of whom was wounded, Butembo Mayor Sylvain Kanyamanda said. Congo's health ministry in a statement said forces had surrounded the center after being tipped to a possible assault, "saving many lives."

The attack occurred hours before the World Health Organization director-general and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director visited the center, which remained open. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus encouraged workers to continue their fight against the second-deadliest Ebola outbreak in history, which is spreading in a region compared to a war zone.

"It breaks my heart to think of the health workers injured and police officer who died in today's attack," Tedros said. WHO has requested and received more support from United Nations and local police forces to protect treatment centers, he said, and blamed the attack on "elements who are exploiting the desperation of the situation for their own purposes."

Some community members wary of outsiders after years of deadly rebel attacks have shown hostility to health workers in a region that is facing its first Ebola outbreak. Misunderstandings have been high, especially over the need to conduct safe burials, a highly sensitive issue. Ebola, a hemorrhagic fever, is spread via bodily fluids of those infected, including the dead.

On Thursday, the Doctors Without Borders president warned that Ebola containment efforts face a "climate of deepening community mistrust" seven months after the outbreak was declared, and the use of security forces complicates efforts. People are still reluctant to bring the sick to treatment centers, Joanne Liu said.

That hesitance, and sometimes outright evasion, by some community members has deeply complicated efforts to track contacts of infected people and carry out vaccinations.

US-backed fighters could soon resume offensive against IS

BAGHOUZ, Syria (AP)—U.S.-backed fighters could soon resume an offensive against the Islamic State group in the last area they control in Syria, an official said Saturday, adding that the battle against the extremists is expected to take three days.

Aras Orkesh of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said they have about 2,500 fighters ready for the battle in and around the eastern village of Baghouz, where IS fighters still have a presence.

Under the cover of heavy coalition bombing on March 1-2, SDF forces advanced on the besieged tent encampment, leaving a corridor for residents to leave. Following that operation, thousands of residents and many fighters evacuated Baghouz over the next four days. But since Friday only a small group came out, raising speculations that a renewed military offensive was being planned.

On Saturday, a black flag inside Baghouz could be seen from a distance as well as moving trucks. On the front line, SDF fighters have assumed a relaxed stance with some walking around on rooftops exposed to IS fighters.

Orkesh, the SDF official, said the battle could restart "tonight or tomorrow. It's the end of the cease-fire with Daesh." He used an Arabic acronym to refer to IS, adding that the battle could take three days.

"What's holding us up is the civilians, we can see them, women and children inside," he said.

In Washington, a senior defense official estimated that nearly 20,000 people, including 3,500 to 4,000 adult males, have emerged from Baghouz since Feb. 20. The official, who could not be identified by name under Pentagon ground rules, said Friday that nearly all of the 20,000, including women and children, are seen as IS followers or adherents.

The official said it would not be a surprise, based on current conditions, if it took another couple of weeks to finish mopping up the IS enclave.

The area on the east bank of the Euphrates River in the province of Deir el-Zour that borders Iraq has been under attack by SDF since September. After capturing all of the surrounding towns and villages over the past six months, the SDF in recent weeks advanced on Baghouz from three sides, besieging it.

Hundreds of IS fighters, along with thousands of civilians, mostly family members, have evacuated the IS-held area after the SDF alternately applied military pressure and allowed time for evacuees to come out. In the last two weeks, many fighters appeared to be among those evacuating.

But some IS militants are still clinging to a patch of land inside the village and are vowing to fight.

Focus

AP

In this Feb. 19, 2019 photo, the old Daily Guide office stands for sale in St. Robert, Mo. With the shutdown of the newspaper in September 2018, this area in central Missouri's Ozark hills joined more than 1,400 other cities across the United States to lose a newspaper over the past 15 years, according to an Associated Press analysis of data compiled by the University North Carolina.

Town by town, local journalism is DYING IN PLAIN SIGHT

By DAVID BAUDER and DAVID A. LIEB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WAYNESVILLE, Mo. (AP)—Five minutes late, Darrell Todd Maurina sweeps into a meeting room and plugs in his laptop computer. He places a Wi-Fi hotspot on the table and turns on a digital recorder. The earplug in his left ear is attached to a police scanner in his pants pocket.

Maurina, who posts his work to Facebook, represents the press—in its entirety.

He is the only person who has come to the Pulaski County courthouse to tell residents what their commissioners are up to, the only one who will report on their deliberations about how to satisfy the Federal Emergency Management Agency so it will pay to repair a road inundated during a 2013 flood.

Last September, this community in central Missouri's Ozark hills became a statistic. With the shutdown of its newspaper, the *Daily Guide*, it joined more than 1,400 other cities and towns across the U.S. to lose a newspaper over the past 15 years, according to an Associated Press analysis of data compiled by the University of North Carolina.

The reasons for the closures vary. But the result is that many Americans no longer have someone watching the city council for them, chronicling the soccer exploits of their children or reporting on the kindly neighbor who died.

In many places, local journalism is dying in plain sight.

The *Daily Guide*, which traces to 1962, served the twin towns of Waynesville and St. Robert near the Army's sprawling Fort Leonard Wood. It was a family owned paper into the 1980s before it was sold to a series of corporate owners that culminated with GateHouse Media Inc., the nation's largest newspaper company.

As recently as 2010, the *Daily Guide* had four full-time news people, along with a page designer and three ad salespeople.

But people left and weren't replaced. Last spring, the *Daily Guide* was cut from five to three days a week. In June, the last newsroom staffer, editor Natalie Sanders, quit—she was burned out, she said. The last edition was published three months later, on Sept. 7.

"It felt like an old friend died," Sanders said. "I sat and I cried, I really did."

The death of the *Daily Guide* raises questions not easily answered, the same ones asked at newspapers big and small across the country.

Did GateHouse stop investing because people were less interested in reading the paper? Or did people lose interest because the lack of investment made it a less satisfying read?

GateHouse said the *Daily Guide*, like many smaller newspapers across the country, was hurt by a dwindling advertising market among national retailers. It faces the same financial pressures as virtually every other newspaper company: Circulation in the U.S. has declined every year for three decades, while advertising revenue across the industry has nosedived since 2006, according to the Pew Research Center.

The challenges are especially difficult in smaller communities.

"They're getting eaten away at every level," said Ken Doctor, a news industry analyst at Harvard's Nieman Lab.

The Daily Guide supplemented its income through outside printing jobs, but those dried up, too, said Bernie Szachara, president of U.S. newspaper operations for GateHouse. Given an unforgiving marketplace, there's no guarantee additional investment in the paper would have paid off, he said.

Szachara said the decision was made to include some news about Waynesville in a weekly advertising circular distributed around Pulaski County.

"We were trying not to create a ghost town," he said.

To residents of Waynesville, the loss of their newspaper left a hole in the community. Many are still coming to grips with what is missing in their lives.

"Losing a newspaper," said Keith Pritchard, 63, chairman of the board at the Security Bank of Pulaski County and a lifelong resident, "is like losing the heartbeat of a town."

Pritchard has scrapbooks of news clippings about his three daughters. He wonders: How will young families collect such memories?

Other residents talk with dismay about church picnics or school plays they might have attended but only learn of through Facebook postings after the fact.

"I miss the newspaper, the chance to sit down over a cup of coffee and a bagel or a doughnut ... and find out what's going on in the community," said Bill Slabaugh, a retiree. Now he talks to friends and "candidly, for the most part, I'm ignorant."

Beyond the emotions are practical concerns about the loss of an information source.

Like many communities, Waynesville is struggling with a drug problem. The four murders last year were the most in memory, and all were drug-related.

Without a newspaper's reporting, Waynesville Police Chief Dan Cordova said many in the community are unaware of the extent of the problem. Social media is a resource, but Cordova is concerned about not reaching everyone.

It isn't just local residents who notice the absence of community-based journalism. As the newspaper industry has struggled, a host of philanthropic efforts have begun to fill at least some of the gaps.

Whether any of those efforts ever help Waynesville and small towns like it remains to be seen.

After the *Daily Guide* folded, Waynesville briefly had an alternative. A local businessman, Louie Keen, bankrolled a newspaper, the Uranus Examiner, that was delivered for free. It was shunned by local advertisers and lasted just five issues.

AP

This Feb. 19, 2019 photo shows the empty front office and newsroom of the old Daily Guide newspaper in St Robert, Mo.

Some groups step in to fill the gap in local news coverage

By DAVID BAUDER
AP MEDIA WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Given the dramatic downsizing in local journalism, efforts are sprouting to match reporters with towns and topics left uncovered. Time will tell if they are the first signs of a turnaround, or fingers in the dike.

Among prominent donors for journalism projects in recent months are the Knight Foundation, Facebook and Craig Newmark, who made his fortune founding Craig's List.

AMERICAN JOURNALISM PROJECT

This so-called "venture philanthropy" organization was founded by two people who have successfully launched online news products: John Thornton of the Texas Tribune and Elizabeth Green of "Chalkbeat." The idea is to find creative ways to raise money on the national and local levels to fund journalism. It recently announced that it had $42 million in funding commitments.

REPORT FOR AMERICA

This organization sees itself as a Peace Corps for journalists and has begun deploying young reporters into local communities. It has sent reporters to Mississippi Today to report on criminal justice and the environment, to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to cover the state capital for The Incline and to Victoria, Texas, to write stories for the Victoria Advocate on the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. It has relationships with newsrooms across the country, including The Associated Press. Initially, the organization pays for half of a reporter's salary, with the other half split between a local news organization and local donor. One of its goals is to wean the journalist off a national funding source.

PROPUBLICA

The online investigative journalism web site has a local journalism project, where it has connected reporters in 14 news organizations across the country with a ProPublica editor to work on various stories. Among the participating news organizations this year are the Anchorage Daily News in Alaska, the Gazette in Charleston, West Virginia, and the Louisville Courier-Journal.

FRONTLINE

The award-winning PBS documentary series announced this past month its first foray into local news. Through a grant by the Knight Foundation, "Frontline" will hire five journalists in newsrooms across the country and an editor to oversee their work on stories about a pre-selected series of topics. The journalism they produce will be provided to local news organizations.

KNIGHT-LENFEST NEWSROOM INITIATIVE

The journalism philanthropists Knight Foundation and the Lenfest Institute for Journalism have been teaming up to provide money for newsrooms, primarily in big cities, to hasten their transition from print to digital products.

Health & Wellness

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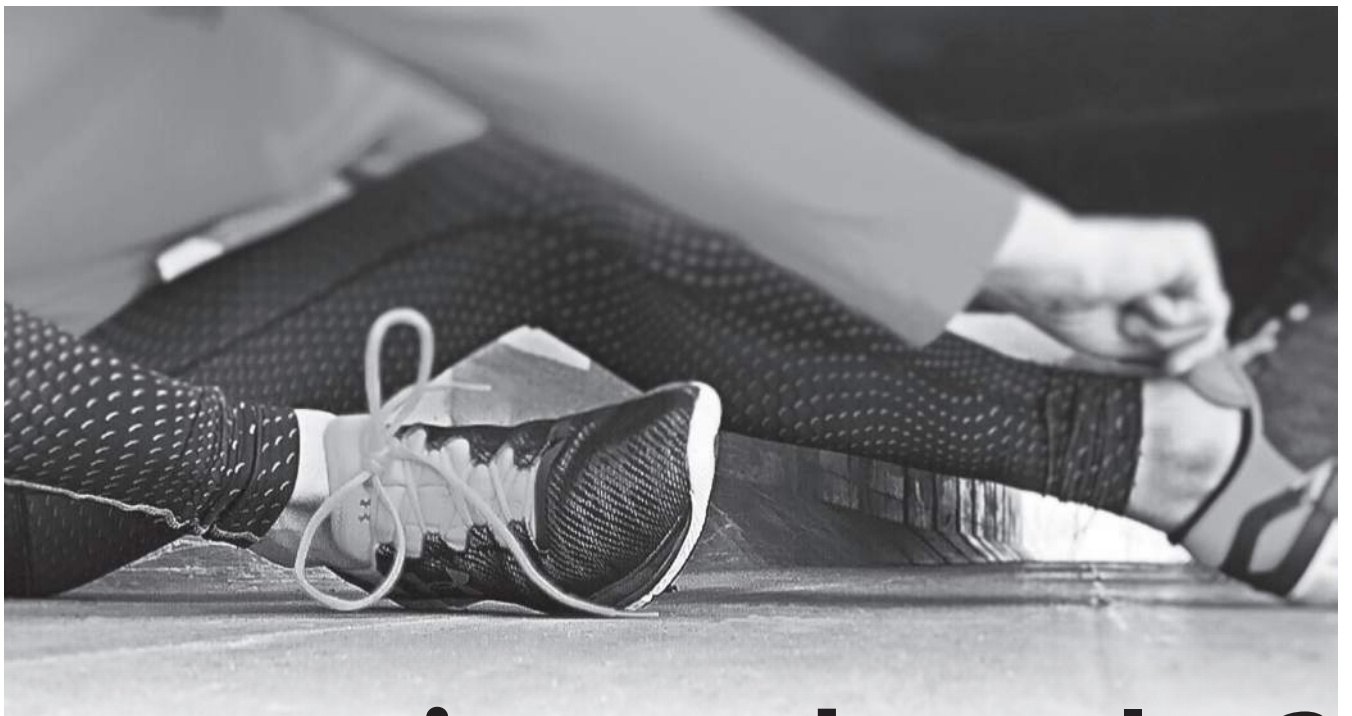


Is exercise work or play?

Weight gain or loss depends on your answer

By MELISSA HEALY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

It's a common rookie mistake, but plenty of diet-and-exercise veterans make it, too: With an act of will, you muster yourself to the gym or the track, and you gut your way through an arduous workout. When you sit down to dinner or go to the break room later that day, you say to yourself, "By God, I've earned this (sugary soda, yummy snack, second helping, dessert, second glass of wine). I worked hard today!"

A week or so later, you're standing on the scale wondering what happened.

Answer: You forgot to have fun.

A new study delves into one of the great mysteries of diet, exercise and weight loss: why, when you've started a grueling exercise regimen in a bid to shape up, it's common to gain, not lose weight. Sure, there's the old reassurance that muscles weigh more than fat. But when the weight gain comes before any evidence that we've changed our body composition significantly, I think we all know we're kidding ourselves.

"Framing"—or the way we think about—the experience of exercise matters, a trio of researchers at Cornell University's food psychology lab found. More specifically, they found, it influences not only what we choose to eat after the experience, but how much of it.

When we think of the physical activity we engage in as fun, or at least incidental to fun, we make better food choices. When we frame physical activity as exercise, we're more likely to choose rewarding foods and to eat more of them, the study found.

The study, published Thursday in the journal Marketing Letters, was ingeniously simple. College administrative staff members were told to wear comfortable shoes and were promised a free lunch after they completed their task. Half the subjects were handed a map, told that the purpose of the study was to exercise, and sent on a 30-minute, one-mile course with occasional stops to assess their level of fatigue.

The other half were given the same walking map but handed an MP-3 player and told that the purpose of the study was to assess the clarity of the music at six different stopping points along the way.

Afterward, researchers offered their 56 subjects a lunch of pasta and meat sauce, green beans and a choice of either a sugary soft drink or water and applesauce or chocolate pudding. Researchers distracted their subjects not only so they wouldn't

discuss their walking experiences with one another, but so they could measure how much they served themselves and record what choices they made.

A second experiment used the same walking course but set one group on what was described as a sightseeing walk while the other went on what it was told was an exercise course. Afterward, researchers offered the 46 subjects the chance to help themselves to M&Ms and surreptitiously weighed the bags that subjects poured for themselves before sending them on their way.

Compared with the walkers distracted by pleasant music, the exercisers were more likely to choose sugary soda over water. Although the exercisers were no more or less likely to pick the chocolate pudding, they served themselves more of it, on average, than did the subjects who thought they had taken an enjoyable walk.

Interestingly, the two groups consumed roughly the same number of calories' worth of pasta, sauce and green beans. That, said the researchers, suggests that the workhorse subjects were rewarding themselves by choosing and eating more of the foods and beverages that are tasty treats than they were simply boosting their calorie intake.

Compared with subjects who ambled along taking in the campus' attractions, those who perceived their walk as exercise served themselves larger portions of M&Ms upon completion of the walk.

Finally, the researchers took advantage of a real footrace and asked 231 runners who had run between five and 10 kilometers to fill out a brief survey that assessed how much fun they had had. Then they offered the runner a choice of a chocolate bar or a cereal bar.

Sure enough, irrespective of runners' hunger levels, their body mass index or the distance they had run, those who indicated they had had more fun running the race were more likely to take a cereal bar. The chocolate bars were more often the choice of those who viewed the race more as a test or a workout than a pleasant challenge.

The upshot is simple, said Brian Wansink, director of the Cornell Food and Brand Lab: If you think of your physical activity as fun, you're less likely to feel the need to reward yourself than if you see your workout as an exhausting chore. That may involve a few mind games, he noted, but the reward is that you won't negate the benefits of your workout with poor food choices.

"Do whatever you can to make your workout fun. Play music, watch a video or simply be grateful that you're working out instead of working in the office," said Wansink. "Anything that brings a smile is likely to get you to eat less."

QUINN ON NUTRITION

Fasting diets

By BARBARA QUINN
THE MONTEREY COUNTY HERALD

"You didn't eat much for lunch," I commented to my daughter after I watched her down a small carton of yogurt before she rushed back to work.

"Today is my fasting day," she replied, reminding me that she limits herself to just 500 calories on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

"Oh, right," I said, remembering some recent articles about this style of eating.

Fasting diets are not new. One that has been around for a few years is the 5/2 diet which allows you to eat normally for five days a week and fast the other two. It's called "intermittent fasting" (IF) or intermittent calorie restriction (ICR) — a way to

take in fewer calories from week to week.

"I limit myself to 500 calories on my fasting days," my daughter said. And on the other days, I try to stay around 1800 calories. So I average about 1200 calories a day. It's just a different way of managing my calories."

Fasting does work. Any plan that prevents us from consuming fewer calories than our bodies require for energy will force us to use energy from within. Bloated fat cells are a great energy reserve, for example. Like a bank account, when we withdraw more than we deposit, the fund shrinks and we lose weight.

Does this approach of severely limiting calories on alternate days have any advantages over traditional calorie restricted diets?

"I find that I'm not that hungry after my fast days," my daughter reported. "And on my non-fasting days—when I supposedly can eat what I want—I enjoy the taste of food more."

"I'm also more aware of how I used to snack unconsciously even when I wasn't hungry. Now I say 'Oops! I can't do that."

Any other advantages?

"What peaked my interest," she said, "was the Alzheimer's research…I'm kind of worried about that." (Her grandfather had dementia from this progressive brain disorder.)

Indeed, some research (mostly in animals) has shown that—in addition to weight loss—low calorie diets and fasting on alternate days may help prolong the health of aging brains and prevent declines in brain function as we age.

"Having intermittent fasting days also helps me understand real hunger... makes me more aware of my hunger signals. And it's not like I'm starving because I'm still getting 500 calories on my fasting days."

And then she said something that makes me realize she really did pay attention growing up with a dietitian mother. "I look for healthy ways to get the most nutrition bang for my calorie buck. Like I can have a nice piece of fish and a big serving of broccoli or cauliflower…versus three cookies." I smile.

A recent review article in the journal of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) found that intermittent fasting diets ranging from 1 to 4 fasting days per week were indeed effective for losing weight and not gaining it back. Reported health benefits include lower blood pressure and blood sugar levels. And sticking to these diets may be easier since they allow some flexibility in eating. Here's to choosing healthy calories.

Barbara Quinn is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator at the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. She is the author of "Quinn-Essential Nutrition" (Westbow Press, 2015). Email her at barbaraquinn88@yahoo.com.

Life & Style

R. Kelly says ex-wife destroyed his name, others stole money

CHICAGO (AP)—R. Kelly angrily blamed his ex-wife for "destroying" his name and claimed other people stole from his bank accounts during new portions of an interview that aired Thursday, a day after the R&B star was jailed for not paying child support.

Kelly, who is charged with sexually abusing three girls and a woman in Chicago years ago, shouted and cried as he spoke with Gayle King of "CBS This Morning." He said his ex-wife was lying when she accused him of domestic abuse, and his voice broke as he asked, "How can I pay child support if my ex-wife is destroying my name and I can't work?"

The 52-year old singer was jailed Wednesday after he said he could not afford to pay $161,000 in back child support. He said he had "zero" relationship with his three children but knows they love him.

The interview, which was recorded earlier this week, marked the first time Kelly has spoken publicly since his arrest last month in the sexual abuse case. In segments that aired Wednesday, he ranted while pleading with viewers to believe that he never had sex with anyone under age 17 and never held anyone against their will.

The interview also marked the first time he addressed allegations in the Lifetime documentary series "Surviving R. Kelly," which aired in January and alleged he held women captive and ran a "sex cult."

Experts said Kelly's appearance was risky and could backfire if it gives prosecutors more information to use against him at trial. That's why most defense attorneys urge clients to keep quiet.

"In my history as a prosecutor, I loved it when a defendant would say things or make comments about his or her defense," said Illinois Appellate Judge Joseph Birkett, who said he did not watch the Kelly interview and was speaking only as a former prosecutor. "I would document every word they said ... (and) I could give you example after example where their statements backfired."

There have been cases in which people who spoke up pointed to evidence that ultimately helped win their freedom, but "historically it's a bad idea," Birkett said.

A recent example of where such an interview might have done more harm than good was in the case against "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett, who was charged with falsely reporting a racist, anti-gay attack against him in Chicago. In charging documents, prosecutors cited statements he made during an interview on ABC's "Good Morning America" identifying two people in a photo of the surveillance video as his attackers. The two brothers pictured in the photo later told police that Smollett had paid them to stage the attack because he wanted a raise and to further his career, prosecutors say.

In Kelly's case, he and his attorney might have decided they had nothing to lose after the Lifetime series, said Fred Thiagarajah, a prominent Newport Beach, California, attorney and former prosecutor.

Musician R. Kelly arrives at the Daley Center for a hearing in his child support case at the Daley Center, Wednesday, March 6, 2019, in Chicago. AP

Festival co-founder: Lineup for Woodstock 50 coming soon

NEW YORK (AP)—Woodstock co-founder Michael Lang says the wait is almost over regarding performers for Woodstock 50, despite media reports claiming Jay-Z, Black Keys and others will perform at the event in August.

"We are thrilled with all the excitement about Woodstock 50, but we have an obligation to our fans, artists and partners to do things the right way," Lang said in a statement to The Associated Press on Thursday. "We are in the final stages of laying the groundwork and can't wait to stage this once-in-a-lifetime event. We'll be officially announcing the lineup and ticket on-sale soon, stay tuned!"

The original Woodstock concert took place in 1969. On Thursday Variety reported that Jay-Z, Black Keys, Dead & Company, Chance the Rapper, Imagine Dragons, the Killers, Gary Clark Jr. and others will perform at Woodstock 50. The event is separate from an anniversary concert planned at the site of the original festival in 1969.

In an interview Thursday with The Associated Press when asked if Imagine Dragons would perform at Woodstock 50, bandleader Dan Reynolds said: "I don't think that's been announced yet, but I can tell you that we have been in talks with them."

More than 80 artists are expected to perform at Woodstock 50, which will take place Aug. 16-18 in Watkins Glen, New York, about 115 miles (185 kilometers) northwest of the original site. Artists will perform on three main stages at Watkins Glen International racetrack in the Finger Lakes.

The original concert was held on a farm in Bethel, New York that is now run as an attraction by The Bethel Woods Center for the Arts. The venue plans its own anniversary event Aug. 16-18.

More than 400,000 people attended the Woodstock Music and Arts Fair, which was held Aug. 15-17, 1969.

Jason Priestley on Luke Perry: 'You burned oh, so brightly Luke'

Jason Priestley, who starred alongside fellow heartthrob Luke Perry on "Beverly Hills, 90210," the hit 1990s TV drama, paid tribute to his dear friend on Thursday.

The actor wrote on his Instagram that Perry, who died Monday after suffering a massive stroke at age 52, was "one of those truly special people who really cared."

He shared a picture of himself and Perry in their early days and another of them as middle-aged men. The two had been friends for 29 years.

"It's taken me a couple of days to figure out how to write this," Priestley wrote. "Luke was not only a star, he was an incredibly bright light that was extinguished far too soon ... and that is why I, and so many others, are in so much pain today."

Shannen Doherty, Perry's love interest in the teen drama, paid her respects to the late actor on Tuesday and sent her love to his friends and family.

Perry's children, Jack and Sophie, broke their silence Wednesday and took to Instagram to remember their father. Jack, 21, wrote: "I've learned so much from you, and my heart is broken thinking about everything you won't be here for."

And Sophie, 18, thanked the hundreds of fans who've sent "beautiful and heartfelt messages."

The CW's "Riverdale" dedicated Wednesday's episode to Perry, who played Archie's father, Fred Andrews, on the show before his death, and said that the remaining episodes would also honor him. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

Annie Lennox pushes for global feminism on Int'l Women's Day

NEW YORK (AP)—Annie Lennox has a sweet dream—that the world will embrace the term global feminism and continue to push for the advancement of women's rights around the globe.

The iconic singer and activist teamed with Apple Music to launch a video Thursday in support of global feminism to coincide with International Women's Day, which is Friday.

The nearly two-minute clip features Lennox, Oscar-nominated actor Richard E. Grant and Grammy-winning singers Ed Sheeran, Mary J. Blige and Dua Lipa telling the story of women's rights in the last 100 years.

Lennox

"My interest is this term 'global feminism,'" Lennox said. "It means that everybody can be a part of it. It isn't saying, 'I'm a feminist, it's different than your feminism.' No. It's all part of a very mixed, diverse dialogue that will bring many people (together)."

"Feminism—we must use this word because it means empowerment. People can be (and) must be empowered," she said.

The Scottish singer said though there's been major progress for women's rights, much more needs to be done.

"In western countries, we're far more resourced than people are generally speaking in the so-called developing world," she said. "It isn't right that young girls cannot attend primary school or cannot attend secondary school. If they are living in poverty, they can't therefore have the skills that they need. They can't become literate, they can't read or write, and therefore they can't have a chance to get out of this poverty."

Lennox is also encouraging more men to become global feminists: "We can be generous and inclusive, and we can use this term like an umbrella term, where people stand collectively, shoulder-to-shoulder, and they identify these facts and say, 'This is not right. Men, women can say, 'This is not right.'"

"Also, we must change this thing about violence where 1 in 3 women have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. If we don't have dialogue with boys and men, we cannot change attitudes and behaviors, so we must bring boys and men into the arena, into the platform for discussion," she added.

Lennox, 64, said Sheeran was the first to jump on board for the video, which also features cameos by Hozier, Emeli Sande, Paloma Faith, Yola, Ade Adepitan, Richa Chadha and more. For International Women's Day, Apple Music is also launching playlists curated by some of the top female acts in music, including Cardi B, Pink, Halsey, Camila Cabello and more.

Lennox is a Grammy and Oscar winner who has had major success as a member of the duo Eurythmics as well as a solo act, with hits including "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)," ''Walking on Broken Glass," ''No More I Love You's" and "Here Comes the Rain Again."

Police: After jail, Taylor Swift's stalker breaks in again

NEW YORK (AP)—A man recently jailed for breaking into Taylor Swift's New York City townhouse was arrested early Thursday after, police say, he did it again.

Roger Alvarado, 23, of Homestead, Florida, climbed a ladder and smashed a glass door to get inside the pop star's pad around 2:30 a.m., police said.

No one was home, according to police, who did not provide information on how he was caught. A message requesting comment was emailed to Swift's publicist.

Alvarado, on probation after getting out of jail Feb. 5, faces stalking and burglary charges. Court records didn't list a lawyer who could comment on his behalf.

Swift

This is at least the third time Alvarado has been arrested at Swift's home. The "Shake It Off" singer owns an $18 million, three-story building in Manhattan's Tribeca neighborhood.

A break-in in April, in which police say Alvarado used Swift's shower and slept in her bed, put him behind bars for more than nine months. As part of the sentence, a judge also ordered Alvarado to complete a mental-health program.

Two months before that, he was arrested for allegedly breaking the front door with a shovel.

Swift wasn't home on either occasion.

In an article published Wednesday, Swift told Elle Magazine that she fears violence and takes precautions , such as carrying military-grade quick-clotting agents to stop bleeding from potential gunshot or stab wounds.

"Websites and tabloids have taken it upon themselves to post every home address I've ever had online," Swift told the magazine. "You get enough stalkers trying to break into your house and you kind of start prepping for bad things."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'Jeopardy' host Alex Trebek announces he has advanced pancreatic cancer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — 'Jeopardy' host Alex Trebek announces he has advanced pancreatic cancer, vows to 'fight this' and 'keep working'

Helen Hunt, Paul Reiser reunite for 'Mad About You' sequel

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Paul and Jamie Buchman are picking up where they left off 20 years ago on "Mad About You." On-demand service Spectrum Originals said Wednesday a limited series will bring Helen Hunt and Paul Reiser back as the New York City couple. The original series, which aired from 1992 to 1999, followed the Buchmans as newlyweds through early parenthood. The sequel will explore modern marriage from the perspective of empty nesters, Spectrum said. It's set to debut in late 2019. In a statement, Hunt and Reiser promised the same funny, heartwarming show, adding, "as soon as we can remember what's funny about being older." Danny Jacobson, who co-created the show with Reiser, is a consultant. Spectrum Originals is launching this spring with the Gabrielle Union-Jessica Alba drama series "L.A.'s Finest."

'Simpsons' producers pull iconic Michael Jackson episode

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The producers of "The Simpsons" are removing a classic episode that featured the voice of Michael Jackson. Executive producer James L. Brooks told The Wall Street Journal on Thursday "it feels clearly the only choice to make." He said fellow executive producers Matt Groening and Al Jean are "of one mind on this." The action follows HBO's broadcast of the documentary "Leaving Neverland," in which two men allege Jackson sexually abused them as children. Jackson's family has criticized the program, and his estate is suing HBO. In the 1991 "Stark Raving Dad" episode, Jackson voiced a character who claims to be Jackson and who meets Homer Simpson in a mental institution. The singer is listed in credits as John Jay Smith. The episode will be removed from streaming services and future DVD sets.

Chicago police looking for source of leaks in Smollett case

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago police say they are conducting an internal investigation to determine the source of information leaked anonymously to media during the probe into "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett's claims he was attacked. Police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi says the investigation began after Smollett was charged with felony disorderly conduct last month. Investigators say Smollett staged a racist, anti-gay attack on himself with two men's help and made a false police report. Police say Smollett, who is black and gay, claimed two men hurled slurs and looped a rope around his neck on Jan. 29 in downtown Chicago. Guglielmi says no alleged leakers have been identified so far. He says no officers or staff members with the department have been disciplined for releasing information about the case.

New Disney Star Wars theme park lands set opening dates

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — The Millennium Falcon is blasting off from Disneyland on May 31 with the opening of the California theme park's massive Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge expansion. Disney Parks announced Thursday that Galaxy's Edge will open for visitors to Florida's Disney World Resort on Aug. 29. Galaxy's Edge is a new 14-acre land at the Disney theme parks, featuring rides and experiences that thrust visitors into the world of the recent "Star Wars" trilogy and the fight between the Resistance and the evil First Order. The marquee attraction is a massive replica of the Millennium Falcon where guests can roam the ship's halls and engage in a dogfight with TIE Fighters. Guests will also be able to build their own personal droids, light sabers and feast on "Star Wars"-appropriate food and drink.

Insta-Monarch: Queen Elizabeth makes first Instagram post

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II has posted her first Instagram image. The media-savvy queen posted from the Science Museum Thursday to help promote the museum's summer exhibition. Using an iPad, she shared an image on the official royal family Instagram account of a letter from 19th century inventor and mathematician Charles Babbage to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. The queen's post said: "In the letter, Babbage told Queen Victoria and Prince Albert about his invention, the Analytical Engine, upon which the first computer programs were created by Ada Lovelace, a daughter of Lord Byron. "The royal Instagram account was launched in 2013 and has 4.6 million followers.

Human Rights Campaign to honor Christina Aguilera

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's largest LGBTQ civil rights organization is honoring Christina Aguilera with its Ally for Equality award. The Human Rights Campaign announced Thursday the six-time Grammy-winning singer is a true "LGBTQ icon" who uses her platform to "share a message of hope and inspiration" to those who have been marginalized. The group says the 38-year-old has raised money to fight HIV/AIDS, advocated marriage equality and spoken out against LGBTQ bullying. The group says Aguilera's 2002 single "Beautiful" is an empowering LGBTQ anthem. Aguilera will be honored at the group's dinner in Los Angeles on March 30. At the same event, the Human Rights Campaign will present its national leadership award to Yeardley Smith. The actress and producer is best known as the voice of Lisa Simpson.

Lauren Groff's 'Florida' wins $20,000 Story Prize

NEW YORK (AP) — Lauren Groff's "Florida," a collection of often tumultuous portraits of life in the Sunshine State, has won the $20,000 Story Prize for short fiction. Prize organizers announced Wednesday night that Groff's book had been selected over Jamel Brinkley's "A Lucky Man" and Deborah Eisenberg's "Your Duck Is My Duck." Judges praised Groff's book as an "immersive experience" into the "beauty and awfulness" of Florida. Other fans of "Florida" include former President Barack Obama, who has listed it among his favorites of 2018. Brinkley and Eisenberg each received $5,000. The Story Prize was started in 2004, with George Saunders, Edwidge Danticat and Anthony Doerr among previous winners. Groff's other books include the story collection "Delicate Edible Birds" and the novel "Fates and Furies," a finalist for the National Book Award.

Oregon city will have last Blockbuster store in world

BEND, Ore. (AP) — The Blockbuster store in a city near central Oregon became the last one in the U.S. last year. And soon it'll be the only one in the world. The Bulletin reports that a Blockbuster store in Perth, Australia, is closing later this month, leaving the Bend franchise alone on the planet. Blockbuster stores in Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska, closed last July. The yellow-and-blue themed movie rental stores were once everywhere, with 9,000 stores worldwide. But competition from on-demand movie-streaming services like Netflix and Hulu forced Blockbuster to declare bankruptcy in 2010. The company closed all of its corporate-owned stores in 2014. The remaining franchised stores kept closing until the Bend Blockbuster was the last one. Manager Sandi Harding says the store is a tourist attraction and won't close anytime soon.

Pen pal labors from a distance as friends memory slips away

DEAR ABBY: I am in my 30s and correspond with a pen pal. She is over 65 and lives several states away. We have never met in person. We have been writing each other for seven years. Recently, she has been having memory problems. She has indicated that she's done testing and been to doctor's appointments for the issue.

Her letters are becoming confusing as she's repeating herself from one letter to the next, telling me things she's already told me. Also, more concerning is that she often accuses me (meanly and out of her normal kind character) of not responding to her letters and saying I mustn't want to be her pen pal anymore. Abby, I put lots of thought into the letters I send, and they are many pages long.

I have now taken to photocopying my letters or typing them and saving the file so if she says she's missing a letter from me, I can simply mail a second copy to her. This clears up the physical issue of repeat sending, but honestly, mentally and emotionally, I'm beginning to get burned out. I feel bad for thinking this way because I'm compassionate and empathetic.

Losing one's memory has to be scary, and I have enjoyed writing her for so long and wouldn't want to abandon her. Also, I wonder if her writing to me is a good activity for her, given her ailment. Truthfully, though, I'm starting to feel hurt and abused. Can you advise?

NEEDING A BREAK IN ILLINOIS

DEAR NEEDING: It is very important that you remind yourself that what you are experiencing with your friend is not her fault. It is caused by her disease. Do you know if she has family nearby? If so, they should be contacted and informed about what's going on.

Dementias are often progressive, and at some point, your friend may no longer be able to correspond with you. My thought would be that you continue to write to her, but make your letters shorter and less frequent, and do not personalize what's going on.

DEAR ABBY: I have a grandson who is turning 3. My son's fiancee, "Tina," watches him frequently while my daughter, "Lila," works. On several occasions, Tina has done things I don't agree with, but I have kept my peace. However, today Lila called me, extremely upset.

Apparently, while Tina was watching my grandson, she had another little boy there who is the same age as my grandson. She had taken it upon herself to potty train the boys, although nobody asked her to, and offered them ice cream if they used the potty. The other boy used it and was given ice cream. My grandson refused and didn't get any. He cried because he had to watch the other child enjoy the treat.

I think it was cruel. Children learn at their own pace. My son is siding with his fiancee, Tina, and everyone is upset. Any advice?

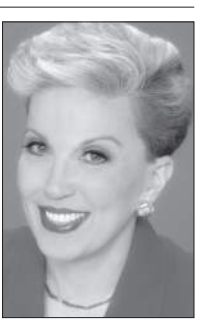
EXTREMELY UPSET GRANDMA

DEAR UPSET GRANDMA: If she hasn't said it already, your daughter should politely make it clear to Tina that she prefers to toilet train her child without outside help. If Tina gives her an argument, Lila should make other arrangements for child care. And you should stand back and let them settle it between themselves.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

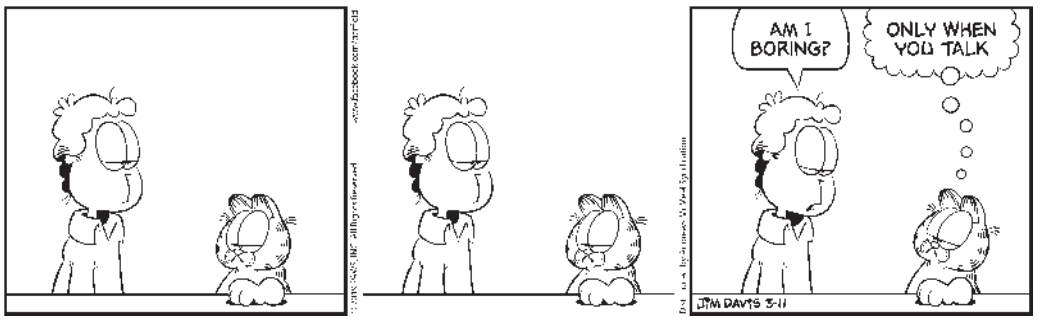
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS? I'VE GOT TO ASSEMBLE MY BEANIE PROPELLER AND MOTOR MYSELF!
WHAT DO THEY THINK, I AM, AN ENGINEER? LOOK, I'VE GOT TO INSERT THESE WIRES AND THIS PLASTIC SWITCH! I CAN'T DO THIS!
HERE, LET ME TRY.
NO! GET AWAY! I'LL DO IT! YOU'D PROBABLY GOOF IT ALL UP, OR...
* SNAP *
OH NO!
SEE? INSULT A TIGER AND YOU GET BAD LUCK! EVERY TIME!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HELLO! YOU MUST BE KATY.
YEP!
ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR FIRST SINGING LESSON?
AM I EVER!
THE QUESTION IS, ARE YOU READY?
YOU AND THAT ATTITUDE CAN WAIT IN THE CAR.
OH, GOOD! MY EARS CHAFE WITH EARPLUGS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

15 MINUTES AGO I WALKED INTO A PLACE, AND THEN I COULDN'T REMEMBER WHAT I WAS THERE FOR.
OH, THAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE ALL THE TIME. WHERE WERE YOU?
THE SHOWER.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Atlas page
4 Ivy League University
9 Science room
12 GPS suggestion
13 Haunting
14 Docs' org.
15 1989 Al Pacino film
17 Decks in the ring
18 Small battery
19 Yard tools
21 "Understood"
24 Membership
25 Tolkien beast
26 Civil War soldier
28 Pulitzer category
31 Abound
33 Narc's org.
35 Dr. McGraw
36 Anticipate
38 Chips go-with
40 Sugar suffix
41 Mark Harmon TV series
43 School break
45 Shun
47 Owned
48 Sashimi fish
49 New York City's — Park
54 Decay
55 Ryan or Tatum
56 Gaiety
57 Sauce source
58 Actions
59 Turf

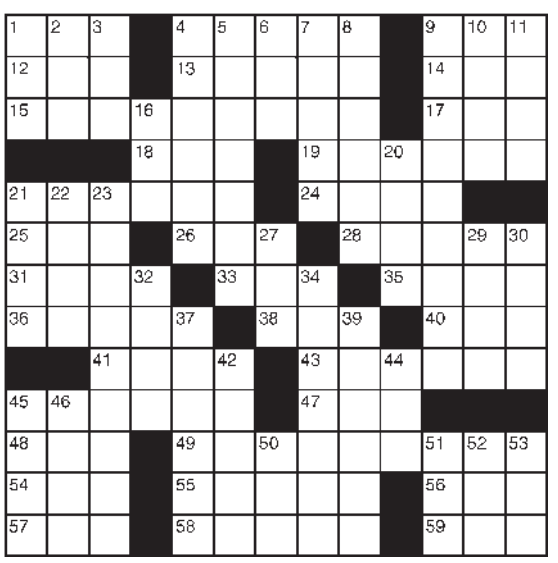
DOWN

1 "— Miniver"
2 Packed away
3 Shell-game item
4 "No cheating!"
5 Akin
6 Acapulco gold
7 "The First — Club"
8 Required
9 Sierra Nevada resort
10 Cupid's specialty
11 Low range
16 Granola grain
20 John Irving hero
21 Teeny bit
22 Got bigger
23 Maryland beach town
27 Nap site
29 Avoid
30 Pub orders
32 Lansing's st.
34 Dunce
37 Steering system part
39 Gems from oysters
42 Pigs
44 LPs' successors
45 Jug handles
46 "Scram!"
50 Churchill gesture
51 Conditions
52 Pair
53 Conclusion

Solution time: 26 mins.

S	H	H	■	C	P	A	■	Z	O	O	M	S
H	A	Y	■	H	A	D	■	A	U	R	A	E
R	I	P	■	A	L	L	C	N	T	O	W	N
U	K	E	■	D	A	I	S	Y	■	■	■	■
B	U	R	T	■	C	B	S	■	S	O	A	R
■	■	■	O	L	E	■	O	R	P	H	A	N
F	A	U	N	E	■	■	■	A	L	O	H	A
C	A	R	R	O	T	■	P	G	A	■	■	■
C	A	N	E	■	H	E	H	■	T	A	L	C
■	■	■	M	C	T	O	O	■	L	C	A	■
B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	■	I	F	S
E	N	N	U	I	■	O	B	I	■	A	T	E
G	O	T	T	I	■	S	E	T	■	S	S	S

Last Friday's Answer 03-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anthony Davis, 26; Thora Birch, 37; Johnny Knoxville, 48; Terrence Howard, 50.

Happy Birthday: Lean toward the obvious, and make the most out of what you are blessed with. How you deal with people as well as how you handle your money and health issues will make a difference this year. This is not the year to take risks or to be a follower. Focus on what you have, not what you want. Excessive behavior will lead to trouble. Your numbers are 6, 11, 20, 27, 36, 41, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* You can be open to new ideas, concepts and opinions, but in the end, you have to do what's best for yourself. Keep your life simple to avoid the drama going on around you. Personal growth will change your life. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Concentrate on getting things done. Finish what you start before you present and promote what you have to offer. Planning and fine-tuning will help you eliminate the competition. You don't have to fight; you just have to be the best. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Trust in yourself, your ability to survive on your own and your intuitive guide who helps you recognize when someone is taking advantage of you. Put your time and effort into what you believe in and do best. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Consider your options and how best to reach your goal. Call in favors from those you know can offer sound advice and the support you need to be successful. A partnership will help stabilize your position and improve your reputation. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't let stubbornness be your downfall. You may not agree with what others say, but listen to reason and be willing to compromise. How you treat others will make a difference to the outcome of a sticky situation. Avoid petty arguments. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Your imagination will run wild, but that doesn't mean you have to follow through. Choose what you know you can rely on to get you where you want to go. You will be able to make positive changes and gains. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Flesh out your ideas, and look for a sound way to advance. Keep your distance from people who tend to take advantage of you. Concentrate on what you can do to improve a health, financial or contractual problem. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Participate. What you discover by interacting with unique people will help you make a positive change. Don't argue or fight a losing battle; follow your heart and do your own thing. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take a moment to weed out the truth. Someone with big ideas will try to solicit you to get involved in a plan that isn't solid. The information you are given will be exaggerated. Protect your personal information. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make positive changes to the way you live. Surround yourself with people who motivate and inspire you to strive for success. An emotional situation should be dealt with peacefully. Getting into an argument will make matters worse. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stay put until you have the facts. If you act on an assumption, you will end up looking bad and giving someone the leverage to manipulate you or a situation you face. Protect against emotional upset and physical stress. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Get the facts before you take part in something you know little about. Knowledge is power, and following through with your plans in the safest way possible will lead to victory. Don't take chances or show signs of inconsistency or indulgent behavior. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative, forceful and ambitious. You are passionate and popular.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6	5		9		2		
			1		7			3
1		7				9		4
	8		4	6	9		3	
3								9
	5		7	3	1		2	
8		3				1		2
7			5		8			
		6		2		8	9	

Difficulty Level ★ 3/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

9	1	6	5	2	8	3	7	4
8	4	2	3	6	7	5	1	9
5	3	7	4	1	9	6	8	2
4	6	9	1	7	3	2	5	8
1	2	3	8	5	4	7	9	6
7	5	8	6	9	2	4	3	1
2	8	4	7	3	1	9	6	5
3	9	5	2	8	6	1	4	7
6	7	1	9	4	5	8	2	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ELECTRIC UNIVERSE THEORY Solution: 9 letters

E	G	G	T	I	U	C	R	I	C	D	S	T	A	R
G	R	N	L	I	F	E	T	I	M	E	I	D	E	A
R	A	I	N	P	H	O	T	O	N	I	S	R	C	Y
A	V	N	F	A	P	A	R	T	I	C	L	E	I	S
H	I	T	A	S	T	R	O	N	O	M	Y	P	T	C
C	T	H	H	S	O	U	R	O	T	A	T	E	E	I
G	Y	G	M	U	E	M	R	Ⓝ	Ⓤ	Ⓢ	T	L	N	S
A	A	I	C	A	N	Z	L	A	C	S	E	S	G	Y
T	M	L	Y	I	T	D	I	E	L	C	M	D	A	H
E	E	S	A	G	M	T	E	N	T	H	O	N	M	P
C	R	N	A	X	R	S	E	R	O	S	C	I	O	R
A	A	A	A	L	Y	E	O	R	B	I	T	W	R	O
P	L	T	G	L	P	N	N	C	D	E	E	P	S	T
S	O	K	A	E	P	T	N	E	R	R	U	C	E	O
M	S	Y	G	O	L	O	E	G	A	T	L	O	V	N

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Astronomy, Atom, Charge, Circuit, Comet, Cosmic, Current, Electron, Energy, Galaxy, Geology, Gravity, Idea, Ionize, Lifetime, Lightning, Magnetic, Mass, Matter, Natural, Orbit, Particle, Peak, Photon, Physics, Planet, Plasma, Power, Proton, Rays, Repels, Rotate, Solar, Space, Speed, Star, Static, St. Elmo's Fire, Sun, Thunder, Voltage, Wind

Last Friday's Answer: Interchange

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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(3) GENERAL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR WORKERS
Rate: $7.25 - $7.50 per hour
With at least 5 years experience.
Must be able to work flexible hours.
With valid driver's license.
IF INTERESTED, SEND RESUME TO:
lcconstruction48@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Aquaville
(1) Manager
At Least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Marketing Strategies and oversee new trends in marine sports.
(1) Motor Boat Mechanic
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Mechanical Job
Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 323-2916

LOOKING FOR SURROGATES
American Couples and Non-American Couples are seeking your help to fulfill their dream to have a child. If you are female between the ages of 21 and 40, have had at least one natural child birth, and are interested in learning more about being a surrogate, please contact Evelyn @ 287-7338. Compensation is over $25,000 - $35,000. Can also receive $500 for referral of qualified candidate.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Macs Marine
is in need of:
(1) Commercial Diver
At least 3 years experience
in Scuba Diving
(1) Motor Boat Mechanic
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable
in Mechanical Job
Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 323-2916

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
AUTO MARINE INC.
is in need of:
(1) Diesel Engine Mechanic
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Diesel Engines
(2) Motor Boat Mechanic
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Mechanical Job
(1) Carpenter
(1) Maintenance Repairer
(1) Accountant
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Preparing Financial Status of the company
Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 323-2916

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
AM MACHINE SHOP
is in need of:
(5) MACHINIST
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in fabrication and modifying parts
(2) CAR AIRCON TECHNICIAN
At least 3 years experience
(2) WELDER
At least 3 years experience
Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 322-0102

GANA CORPORATION
dba GANA DAYCARE
(8) Teachers
- Food Handlers Certificate
- CPR Certified
- Education background (College Diploma)
- At least 3-6 years experience
- 40 hours training per year

Please call 989-4972
Email resume to limjs5223@gmail.com

Taniguchi Ruth Makio Architects
is accepting applications for the following positions:
CADD (REVIT) OPERATOR
Submit applications and resumes in person at Suite 204 M2M Bldg. Garapan, Saipan.
Via email: arch@traguam.com & trma.cnmi@gmail.com

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School
Is requesting applicants for:

(2) Child Development Center/ Pre-School Teachers
- Minimum two years experience working with young children in a school setting (18 months through 4 years of age)
- Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree
- CPR/First Aid Certified
- Knowledge of child development and curriculum
- Must be a member in good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Willing to adhere to all school policies and procedures

(1) Maintenance Supervisor
- Minimum two years of general maintenance experience and supervision
- Knowledge of plumbing, electrical, building construction, and general maintenance
- Must be a member in good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Send resumes to: **Saipan SDA School Principal**
P.O. Box 501063 Saipan MP 96950
principal@saipansdaschool.org

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2019
Opening date: March 04, 2019 Closing date: March 22, 2019

Positions:
(5) ARFF Trainee (Saipan)
(1) Equipment Operator-I (Saipan)
(1) Custodial-I (Saipan)
(3) Ports Police Officer-I (Saipan)
(1) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee (Rota)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport***. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport is no later than **5:00 pm on Friday, March 22, 2019**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or hrspecialist@cpa.gov.mp by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Duenas Camacho & Associates, Incorporated
has an opening for:

One (1) Survey Instrument Man

Minimum Qualification: Associate's degree in Geodetic Engineering (may be foreign equivalent).

Duties: Performs land survey-related data and document research. Conducts field cadastral, topographic and/or as-built surveys on assigned projects. Operates survey instruments during the conduct of assigned survey work. Organizes and takes survey field notes according to procedures established by the chief of surveys. Downloads and assist in the plotting of data from data collectors according to procedures established by the chief of surveys. May supervise aide assisting survey-related computations. Works and coordinates with engineers and environmental scientists to satisfy survey requirements on engineering design and environmental projects. Required to travel to MSA of Rota, NMI and MSA of Tinian, NMI to perform work.

If interested, send resume to Duenas, Camacho & Associates, Incorporated by email to jppangelinan@dcaguam.com or by fax at 670-234-3824. Proof of qualifications required.

WHATZIT Solution: Rest in peace

Wireless Ridge Landscaping

is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following positions:

(3) GROUND MAINTENANCE
Perform residential and commercial landscaping work including design conceptualization and layout, preparation of plant materials, soil preparation, planting and maintenance. Also performs grounds keeping duties and other related duties as assigned. Minimum qualifications: 3-12 months of related work experience, with a high school or GED diploma.

All positions close 5:00pm on Tuesday, March 12, 2019.
Applications are available at the Marianas Medical Center.
Applications should include a resume.
Incomplete applications will not be considered.
Wireless Ridge Landscaping is an equal opportunity employer.

Geotesting, Inc. has openings for:

One (1) Soils/Materials Technician Supervisor
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree Engineering (may be foreign equivalent) and two years of experience as a Soils/Materials Technician Supervisor, Assistant Soils/ Materials Technician Supervisor, Assistant Materials Supervisor or Soils/Materials Engineer.

Duties: Reviews requirements of new projects and assists in preparation of proposals for clients based on the project requirements, scope of site and subsurface explorations and laboratory testing requirements. Logs subsurface soils and rocks in test borings for engineering purposes. Visits project sites and evaluate surface and probable subsurface soil and rock conditions, and other data. Supervises soils/materials technicians in performing laboratory and field testing on soils, concrete, aggregates, bituminous mixtures, and other related materials. Summarizes and prepares reports of the laboratory and field testing data.

One (1) Soils/Materials Technician
Minimum Qualifications: Associates degree in Engineering (may be foreign educational equivalent) and one year of experience as a Soils/Materials Technician or two years of experience as a Soils/Materials Technician or Assistant Soils/Materials Technician.

Duties: Performs laboratory and field testing on soils, concrete, aggregates, bituminous mixtures, and other related materials. Tests will include, but are not limited to, grain size analysis, compaction, liquid limit and plasticity index, bearing ratio, specific gravity, sand equivalent, and concrete compressive and tensile strength testing. Assists in performing test borings and obtaining subsurface soil samples. Observes excavation and back filling. Performs tests for design mix for concrete and bituminous mixes. Assists in performing infiltration tests in the soils. Performs field samplings of soils, concrete and bituminous mixtures.

Two (2) Assistant Soils/Materials Technician
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in Engineering (may be foreign educational equivalent) and three (3) months of experience as a Soils/Materials Technician.

Duties: Assists in performing laboratory and field testing on soils, concrete, aggregates, bituminous mixtures, and other related materials. Tests will include, but are not limited to, grain size analysis, compaction, liquid limit and plasticity index, bearing ratio, specific gravity, sand equivalent, and concrete compressive and tensile strength testing. Assists in performing test borings and obtaining subsurface soil samples. Observes excavation and back filling. Assists in performing tests for design mix for concrete and bituminous mixes. Assists in performing infiltration tests in the soils. Assists in field samplings of soils, concrete and bituminous mixtures.

If interested, send resume to Geotesting, Inc. by email to geotesting@geoguam.com or by fax at 670-235-5000. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within one week of acceptance to hire.

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Raiders to acquire Brown from Steelers

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) — The Oakland Raiders agreed on a deal Saturday night to acquire prolific but disgruntled receiver Antonio Brown from the Pittsburgh Steelers and will give him the lucrative new contract he wanted.

A person with direct knowledge of the trade told The Associated Press that the Raiders finalized the deal with the Steelers and will give Brown a new three-year contract worth $50.125 million instead of the $38.925 million he was owed by Pittsburgh. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal can't be completed until the new league year starts Wednesday.

Pro Football Talk first reported the deal and says Pittsburgh will get third and fifth-round draft picks from Oakland.

The trade makes final what became a very messy and very public divorce between Brown and the team that helped turn the sixth-round pick into arguably the greatest wide receiver of his generation.

It also gives the Raiders a high-profile addition for second-year coach Jon Gruden after trading away two of the team's biggest stars last year in edge rusher Khalil Mack and receiver Amari Cooper.

Oakland got extra first-round picks in those trades but didn't need to give up any of its four picks in the top 35 in the upcoming draft to acquire Brown, who has topped 100 receptions and 1,200 yards receiving in each of the past six seasons. The Raiders have had only one player reach those marks in a single season in franchise history, with Hall of Famer Tim Brown accomplishing the feat in 1997.

Brown now gives quarterback Derek Carr his biggest offensive weapon since entering the league in 2014 and the Raiders a legitimate star before they move to Las Vegas for the 2020 season.

The Raiders' top wide receiver last season was Jordy Nelson, who had just 63 catches for 739 yards.

Gruden has always admired Brown from his time as a broadcaster and had nothing but praise for the receiver before the teams played last December.

"He's the hardest working man, I think, in football," Gruden said. "Hardest working player I've ever seen practice. I've seen Jerry Rice, I've seen a lot of good ones, but I put Antonio Brown at the top. If there are any young wideouts out there, I'd go watch him practice. You figure out yourself why he's such a good player."

Brown was obviously pleased with the development, posting a picture of himself in a Raiders uniform and a video with Carr at a Pro Bowl with the caption "Love at first sight " on his Twitter account.

Brown is no stranger to drawing headlines for both his prolific on-field production and his off-the-field antics, including livestreaming from the locker room after a playoff win over Kansas City in January 2017 and getting pulled over for doing 100 mph in the northern Pittsburgh suburbs last fall.

AP

In this Nov. 18, 2018, file photo, Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown catches a pass during an NFL football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars in Jacksonville, Fla.

The sometimes tumultuous relationship between the only player in NFL history with six straight 100-catch seasons and the franchise that made him the highest-paid player at his position in the spring of 2017 reached a breaking point in late December.

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin benched Brown during the regular-season finale against Cincinnati after the wide receiver went radio silent in the final 48 hours before the game. Brown arrived in a fur coat, hung out for a half and then disappeared from view until well after his teammates had cleaned out their lockers following a 9-6-1 finish that left Pittsburgh on the outside of the playoffs for the first time since 2013.

When Brown did resurface, he began engaging in a series of increasingly antagonistic acts designed to expedite his departure. He went on Instagram with former Steelers linebacker James Harrison during Tomlin's season wrap-up press conference. He decried quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's "owner's mentality" and chastised Tomlin for disciplining him in Week 17, no matter that Tomlin and the rest of the organization had spent years downplaying Brown's off-the-field eccentricities.

Brown officially requested a trade last month, but not before photo-shopping his familiar No. 84 onto a San Francisco 49ers jersey or using his hyperactive social media feeds to indicate not only his displeasure with the Steelers but also his interest in signing a new deal with whomever should acquire his services.

Even with his benching in the finale, Brown caught 104 passes for 1,297 yards and a franchise-record and NFL-high 15 touchdowns. His last performance in a Pittsburgh uniform might have been one of his best, a 14-reception, 185-yard, two-touchdown masterpiece in a road loss to New Orleans.

A week later, the player who once said he wanted to retire a Steeler didn't even suit up against the Bengals. Just over two months later, he now finds himself heading to the second act of a career that's on a Hall of Fame trajectory and the Steelers have a hole at receiver and more than $21 million in dead money on their salary cap.

Top draft prospects downplay concussion dangers

INDIANAPOLIS—Sure, football's culture is changing when it comes to concussions.

It typically takes longer than it used to in getting cleared to return to play. The helmets are getting better. More rules are instituted for safety. Self-reporting of symptoms is seemingly on the rise.

Yet the more things change, the more they stay the same.

"It doesn't impact me at all," Notre Dame tight end Alize Mack declared during the NFL Scouting Combine last weekend in Indianapolis, asked if increasing awareness about long-term risks associated with head injuries affect his view of the football career he's pursuing.

"I think I speak for everyone in this room when I say this is a game most of us have been playing since we were seven years old," added Mack, who suffered two concussions in college. "So, at the end of the day, that's not going to change how I attack a defense or choose to go after a player. This is football. It's a physical game. That's what you sign up for."

Have no fear. Never mind that, with horror stories involving chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) found in deceased ex-players, institutional changes related to protocols and the billion-dollar settlement of a class-action lawsuit by former players that took effect in 2017—after years of denial by the NFL that there was a link between football and long-term brain issues—you might think there should be a warning label when signing up to play football.

Yet as we've come to the point where players in the latest crop of prospects for the NFL Draft have grown up in an age of enlightenment, playing under concussion protocols since they first took up the sport, it isn't hard to find bravado from players dismissing serious concerns about long-term health.

Any extra precaution?

"No, not that all," said receiver Miles Boykin, one of Mack's college teammates. "This is the wrong game to play if you're afraid."

I'm not suggesting players shouldn't pursue football as a dream career. While it's tough to quantify, anecdotally there could be many who played the sport without any long-term issues from head trauma. And concussions occur in a lot of different sports and activities—not just football.

Still, as roughly 300 players assembled in Indianapolis for the annual event that evaluates and essentially processes a new crop for entry into the NFL, I was curious to seek a sense of how concussion awareness resonates with a new generation.

Like those from previous generations, the handful of players queried by USA TODAY during the combine—all of whom suffered concussions in college—downplayed risks as an occupational hazard that comes with the potential for multi-million-dollar salaries.

"That's the game," Mack said. "A head injury can happen at any moment, not just (from) football. You know that's a risk. An ankle injury, a head injury, all types of things are risks. But at the end of the day, this is football."

Boykin, MVP of the Citrus Bowl, has a deeper perspective than most. His older brother, George, was forced to quit playing football after he suffered a brain contusion while playing the sport during his sophomore year in high school.

"That's a real thing," said Boykin. "He understood the risk he took when he was playing. It's awful when it happens, but you understand."

Boykin said his brother, 24, has thrived without football. George Boykin is a commercial pilot and currently pursuing a master's degree. Rather than view his brother's experience as a deterrent, Miles—who suffered one concussion playing football and another playing basketball—said it helped him gain a better appreciation that he is healthy enough to play.

"It's tough," he said. "We put ourselves in harm's way. I understand that. We sign up to play this sport. But without this sport, I wouldn't be standing in front of you. I wouldn't have gone to Notre Dame without that sport. So, I'm extremely thankful for it."

McIlroy hits 66; Fitzpatrick leads at Bay Hill

AP
Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, hits from the first fairway during the third round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament Saturday, March 9, 2019, in Orlando, Fla.

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Rory McIlroy seems to have everything going his way at Bay Hill except for recent history.

With three birdies over the last four holes, McIlroy had a 6-under 66 on Saturday that left him one shot behind Matt Fitzpatrick and in the final group of a PGA Tour event for the third time in five starts this year, and the ninth time dating to the start of 2018.

That's a sign of consistently good play.

There's also some frustration from not having won from the final group since the Irish Open in 2016.

And by the look of Bay Hill in the warm, late afternoon—greens that looked yellow, fairways feeling tighter in such firm conditions—it won't be any easier.

"Just what I needed," McIlroy said. "I did everything I needed to do today to get myself back in the golf tournament, and excited to have another chance tomorrow."

Fitzpatrick managed to avoid bogeys on a Bay Hill course so firm he could barely find any pitch marks on the greens Saturday. It led to a 5-under 67 and a one-shot lead as he goes for his first PGA Tour title.

He was at 9-under 207, which spoke to the difficulty of a fast, fiery course that would have made Arnie proud. It was the highest 54-hole score to lead at Bay Hill since Ben Crenshaw was at 210 in 1993.

That would have surprised no one who had to play it, especially late in the warm afternoon.

Fitzpatrick wasn't aware that Keegan Bradley and Tommy Fleetwood, the co-leaders after 36 holes, had quickly gone in reverse. But it didn't take him long to figure it out. He hit a sand wedge from 115 yards to just inside 10 feet, and he couldn't even find where the ball landed.

"So when you see that, you know it's going to be in for tough, fiery greens," Fitzpatrick said. "But the condition of the greens is fantastic and they have been all week, so I think that that's what make it's so great. You can still hit to 30 feet, 40 feet and just have a perfectly great putt, just because they're so good."

McIlroy started quickly and was just hanging around until his big finish. He hit pitching wedge that settled a foot away for a tap-in on the 15th, hit a pitch over the bunker from right of the green on the par-5 16th for a 4-foot birdie, and then finished with another pitching wedge to 10 feet for one last birdie.

Those birdies were big. The pars weren't bad, either.

"I felt for part of the round today that I was hanging on," McIlroy said. "You hit it up to 25, 30 feet, you take your two-putts, you move on and know you're not going to lose any ground on the field."

That finished put him where he wanted—the final group.

McIlroy also was in the final group at Kapalua to start the year, three shots behind Gary Woodland. He was in the final group in Mexico City two weeks ago, four shots behind Dustin Johnson. This presents a better opportunity against Fitzpatrick, a five-time winner on the European Tour over the last four years.

But there are plenty of others still in the mix.

Fitzpatrick looked at the electronic leaderboard next to him and figured every name had a chance.

Fifteen players were within five shots of the lead.

"There's water around here, the greens are firm, the rough's thick," Fitzpatrick said. "Today someone was saying it's a bit like a U.S. Open, which I could totally see. It only takes a couple of water balls from the top five guys, a few dropped shots early and all of a sudden you sort of are not looking like you're in a great position."

The list included Fleetwood, who made a 6-foot putt on the 18th hole for his first birdie of the day and a 76. He also was five back.

Bradley didn't have a par until the sixth hole, and only one of those was a birdie. He missed the fairway on No. 1 (bogey), hit into a bunker on No. 2 (bogey), three-putted for bogey on No. 3 and had another bogey from the bunker on No. 5.

He rolled in a 35-foot birdie putt on the 18th for a 75, and while that big fist pump seemed out of place for someone who endured such a tough day, he had reason to cheer. After all that, Bradley was just three shots behind.

Aaron Baddeley and Matt Wallace each had a 69, while Kevin Kisner had a 70. They were at 7-under 209, still very much in the game.

"The golf course is playing brutal, and just nowhere to get it close to the pin," Kisner said. "Greens are firm, hitting a lot of long irons, and it's a true test."

McIlroy sees some similarities to his victory last year at Bay Hill. He started slowly and began to hit his stride, playing a little bit better each day. He also went to one of the Disney parks after finishing early Friday, just like last year when he was at Magic Kingdom and rode Space Mountain.

This year's ride?

"Tower of Terror," he said, and that might be appropriate if the conditions at Bay Hill stay this way.

Judge gets below-market payday from NY Yankees

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Aaron Judge got a $62,000 raise from the New York Yankees up to $684,300 in the right fielder's last season before becoming eligible for salary arbitration.

Catcher Gary Sanchez was given a $49,400 hike to $669,800 as the team reached agreements with its young players whose salaries are under club control. He also will be eligible for arbitration next winter.

Second baseman Gleyber Torres agreed to $605,200, up from last year's $545,000 minimum, and third baseman Miguel Andujar struck a deal for $617,600, an increase from $545,800.

Outfielder Clint Frazier, sidelined for most of last season following a concussion, gets $563,300, a slight rise from $559,200. First baseman Luke Voit agreed to $573,200, up from the $546,500 in the majors last year as part of the contract he agreed to with St. Louis, which traded him to New York.

All players have split contracts with lower salaries should they be sent to the minor leagues: Judge would get $311,150, Sanchez $310,200, Torres $240,210, Andujar $269,216, Frazier $222,711 and Voit $145,673.

Also agreeing to deals were right-handers Albert Abreu ($555,000/$90,400), Domingo Acevedo ($555,000/$90,400), Chance Adams ($556,725/$90, 400), Luis Cessa ($578,975/ $210,768), Domingo German ($577,500/ $190,150), Chad Green ($598, 650/$285,400), Joe Harvey ($555,000/$45, 300), Ben Heller ($555,000/ $273,738), Jonathan Holder ($580,300/$262,947) and Jonathan Loaisiga ($560, 550/$92,766); left-handers Jordan Montgomery ($596, 600/$290,225) and Stephen Tarpley ($557, 250/$90,400); catcher Kyle Higashioka ($562,900/$160,207); and infielders Thairo Estrada ($555, 000/$90,400) and Tyler Wade ($572,000/$155,691).

Harper make Phillies debut

CLEARWATER, Fla.—The fans were lined up outside the ticket gates Saturday morning, five hours before game time to see Bryce Harper. They packed every nook and crevice of Spectrum Field, sitting shoulder-to-shoulder in the grass berm, with a sell-out crowd of 10,276 screaming his name every time they caught a glimpse of him.

The Philadelphia Phillies, from veterans to rookies, kept talking all morning about a buzz they've never felt before in spring training. Philadelphia mayor Jim Kenney flew into town for the event. Phillies owner John Middleton was picking up baseballs after batting practice rounds. Philadelphia Eagles Hall of Fame safety Brian Dawkins came in to speak to the team, grabbed the microphone before the game and screamed: "Yeaaaaah, baby!

Oh, it was a Harper's Bazaar spectacle, missing only boxing promoter Don King and Rocky, with Harper walking to the plate in the first inning to the "Fresh Prince of Bel Air" theme song.

"I thought it'd be fun for spring training," Harper said. He plans to introduce a new walk-up song for the regular season.

The crowd went bonkers, standing and cheering all game, stopping only after he walked for the second time.

"Weren't these the same fans just booing you a couple of years ago?" Harper laughed, recalling a conversation with one of the Phillies' staffers. "It was awesome … The ovation they gave me, I was very humbled, very blessed. It just shows you how great a fanbase Philly really is. When you put Phillies across your chest, it really means something to these people."

They certainly had Harper's back, vehemently booing the Toronto Blue Jays' pitching staff for walking Harper in his first two at-bats. The Jays even employed a four-outfielder shift when the count reached two strikes.

It was a first, said Harper. And hopefully, he said, the last.

"I've never seen that. Intense," he said.

Does he envision more teams going to such an extreme?

"Man, I hope not. I don't know. If they're going to play ball like that … definitely different, for sure."

Kyrie's 30 propel Celtics past depleted Lakers

AP

Boston Celtics' Kyrie Irving, center, puts up a shot against Los Angeles Lakers' Johnathan Williams, left, and Moritz Wagner during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, March 9, 2019, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)— LeBron James put up a triple-double in less than 28 minutes, and it still wasn't enough to keep his patchwork Los Angeles Lakers competitive against Kyrie Irving and the surging Boston Celtics.

Irving was the biggest reason for that disappointment during a fairly predictable chapter of this storied rivalry between two franchises heading in opposite directions.

Irving scored 30 points and Marcus Smart had 16 in the Celtics' 120-107 victory over the short-handed Lakers on Saturday night, propelling Boston to its third consecutive win on its California trip.

"I feel for him," Irving said, citing the Lakers' injuries around James. "LeBron has always been a championship contender. Not to qualify for the playoffs is hard. I can only imagine."

Irving didn't make the playoffs with the Cleveland Cavaliers until James returned for the 2014-15 season, so he can do more than imagine. But playoff qualification won't be a problem for his Celtics, whose up-and-down regular season has hit a high on the West Coast during a strong trip that concludes Monday against the Clippers.

"The stuff that happens in the regular season, you can barely remember it in the playoffs," Irving said with a shrug.

Boston was challenged while James racked up his 80th career triple-double in a makeshift Lakers lineup missing three injured starters, but Irving hit a series of big shots down the stretch to seal it. After missing Wednesday's win at Sacramento with a bruised thigh, Irving added seven rebounds and seven assists.

Marcus Morris had 16 points and seven rebounds for the Celtics, and Gordon Hayward added 15 points.

"I feel like we're on the right track," Hayward said. "Certainly winning three in a row helps that. Certainly we can improve, too. We just want to be playing our best basketball come playoff time."

James had 30 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds in his seventh triple-double for the Lakers, who have lost five straight in a playoff chase that looks futile at this point.

"I did like the way we played," James said. "I thought we shared the ball. I thought we defended them for the majority of the game."

Bucks 131, Hornets 114

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 26 points, 13 rebounds and six assists and Milwaukee beat Charlotte for its NBA-best 50th victory.

Brook Lopez added 25 points and eight rebounds as the Bucks used a second-half surge to knock out the Hornets. It's just the second 50-win season in the past 30 years for Milwaukee (50-16), which went 52-30 during the 2000-01 season and reached the Eastern Conference finals.

Kemba Walker led Charlotte with 25 points.

Trail Blazers 127, Suns 120

In Portland, CJ McCollum scored 26 points and Portland snapped Phoenix's three-game winning streak.

Damian Lillard had 18 points and nine assists, while Jusuf Nurkic added 14 points and nine rebounds. The Blazers, who had lost three of their previous four games as they jockey for playoff position in the Western Conference, led by as many as 29 points.

Devin Booker led the Suns with 23 points.

Timberwolves 135, Wizards 130, OT

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns had 40 points and 16 rebounds before leaving in the final seconds of regulation with a knee injury in Minnesota's overtime victory over Washington.

The Timberwolves outscored the Wizards 14-9 in the extra period for their fifth straight home win. Derrick Rose scored 29 points, including a wild 19-footer that put the Wolves up 131-127 with 58.2 seconds to play.

Bradley Beal led Washington with 36 points and Trevor Ariza added 27.

Nets 114, Hawks 112

In Atlanta, Spencer Dinwiddie scored 23 points, Jarrett Allen added 20 points and 12 rebounds and Brooklyn held off Atlanta for its third straight victory.

The Nets moved into a tie for sixth place in the Eastern Conference despite missing a staggering 21 free throws to give the Hawks a chance at the end. After Joe Harris hit one of two foul shots with 16.3 seconds remaining, Trae Young dribbled down the clock and passed to 42-year-old Vince Carter, who missed a 3-point attempt at the buzzer.

John Collins finished with 33 points and a career-high 20 rebounds for Atlanta. Young had a triple-double with 23 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds.

Kings 102, Knicks 94

In New York, De'Aaron Fox had 30 points and eight assists and Sacramento beat New York to open a four-game trip.

Fox scored 12 points in the final six minutes after the Knicks erased a 12-point lead to take a two-point lead.

Dennis Smith Jr. scored 18 points for the Knicks. They have lost five straight.

Van Gundy suggests Lakers explore LeBron trade in offseason

It's safe to say this season has been a fiasco for the Los Angeles Lakers.

The team is 30-35, has lost four straight and is almost certainly not making the playoffs. Brandon Ingram is out for the season. Lonzo Ball is out for the season. LeBron James is on a minutes restriction and receiving so much criticism that Kyrie Irving feels sorry for him.

Everything falling apart like this means head coach Luke Walton is almost certainly going to be fired this offseason, but the organization will likely have many more moves to make.

According to one ESPN analyst, the Lakers should consider one of those moves being a LeBron James trade. Yep, that's the point we've reached this Lakers season.

In the first quarter of another Lakers loss against the Boston Celtics on Saturday, the topic of the team's future came up. Analyst Jeff Van Gundy dropped the idea of the Lakers ending James' tenure, to the disbelief of fellow analyst Mark Jackson, who has been mentioned as a possible replacement for Walton.

The basic outline of Van Gundy's idea: trade James to the Clippers primarily to free up cap space, then go after Kevin Durant, Anthony Davis and/or Kawhi Leonard.

Van Gundy believes that a Lakers team centered around Davis and one of Durant or Leonard would be better off than one led by James. Sure.

Of course, there is no guarantee the Lakers get any of those players. And let's not even get into how awful a look it would be for the organization to sign James to a four-year contract ostensibly so they can build around him, then kick him to the curb after one season. Any free agent would think twice about shaking Magic Johnson's hand if that happened.

This is all obviously hypothetical now, but it's a very real indication of just how badly the Lakers' plans have failed this season.

Women's national soccer team players sue for equitable pay

NEW YORK—Three months before beginning their defense of their Women's World Cup title, American players escalated their legal dispute with the U.S. Soccer Federation over equal treatment and pay.

Players filed a federal discrimination lawsuit against the federation Friday, alleging ongoing "institutionalized gender discrimination" that includes unequal pay with their counterparts on the men's national team.

The women's team has often championed equal rights issues and sought more equitable pay during collective bargaining two years ago.

"I think a lot of people look to us and our team and the collective voice that we have and what we've stood for, for inspiration and for power, and as an ally in this broader fight for equality and human rights, really," said winger Megan Rapinoe, a co-captain and veteran of 149 international appearances.

The 28 members of the current women's player pool filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles under the Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The lawsuit, which seeks class-action status, was filed on International Women's Day.

Players seek damages that include back pay.

"We believe it is our duty to be the role models that we've set out to be and fight to what we know we legally deserve," forward Christen Press told The Associated Press. "And hopefully in that way it inspires women everywhere."

The U.S. Women's National Team Players Association is not party to the lawsuit but said in a statement it "supports the plaintiffs' goal of eliminating gender-based discrimination by USSF."

The USSF did not have an immediate comment.

The men's and women's U.S. national teams have separate collective bargaining agreements, and their pay is structured differently. That means there is no dollar-to-dollar salary comparison.

The lawsuit claims that from March 2013 through Dec. 31, 2016, when the previous collective bargaining agreement expired, players on the women's team could make a maximum salary of $72,000, plus bonuses for winning non-tournament games as well as World Cup appearances and victories, and for Olympic placement.

Djokovic, Osaka earn victories at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP)—Novak Djokovic and Naomi Osaka, both ranked No. 1 in the world, cruised to straight-set victories at the BNP Paribas Open on Saturday night.

Djokovic beat Bjorn Fratangelo 7-6 (5), 6-2 in pursuit of a record sixth title in the desert. It was Djokovic's 50th match win at the tournament, his highest total at any ATP Masters 1000 event.

Defending champion Osaka beat Kristina Mladenovic 6-3, 6-4 in her first attempt at defending a WTA Tour title.

Mladenovic upset Osaka in straight sets two weeks ago at the Dubai tournament. It was Osaka's first match since ascending to the No. 1 ranking.

"I learn the most when I lose matches, and honestly, it was great that I got to play her again because I was able to learn from the mistakes I did back then," Osaka said. "I just learned to be really positive and not give her anything."

Djokovic needed 1 1/2 hours to beat Fratangelo and improve to 11-1 on the season. Afterward, Djokovic went over to greet former No. 1 Pete Sampras, who sat courtside.

"I think I tried too hard in the first set to impress him," the Serb said.

Djokovic indicated he was rusty at the start, having taken over a month off after winning the Australian Open in late January.

"I was kind of waiting for him to do something with the ball rather than doing it myself," he said. "That resulted in a very close first set. He was the one that was really aggressive and dictating the points from back of the court for entire first set."

Venus Williams outlasted No. 3 seed Petra Kvitova 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 in the second round. It was just her eighth match of the year.

Kvitova served 10 aces and 10 double-faults in the 2 1/2-hour match. She became the highest seeded woman to lose so far.

"She's been playing so well this year. You never know what's going to come off her racket," Williams said in an on-court interview. "I just loved the battle."

Williams, a three-time semifinalist at Indian Wells, is the oldest woman in the tournament at 38. She's seeking her 50th career title. Williams also needed three sets to beat Andrea Petkovic in the first round.

"The crowd was behind me to get to match point," Williams said.

Wimbledon champion Angelique Kerber routed Yulia Putintseva 6-0, 6-2. Kerber broke serve to open the match on her way to winning the first 10 games in a row.

Kerber, seeded eighth, converted 93 percent of her first serves and moved on to a third-round match against qualifier Natalia Vikhlyantseva

"I was playing really aggressive," Kerber said. "Yeah, it's good to start the tournament like that."

Other seeded winners were: No. 5 Karolina Pliskova, No. 9 Aryna Sabalenka, No. 11 Anastasija Sevastova, No. 21 Anett Kontaveit and No. 24 Lesia Tsurenko.

Alexander Zverev, Milos Raonic, Gael Monfils, Gilles Simon and Laslo Djere were seeded winners on the men's side.

AP

Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns to Bjorn Fratangelo of the United States at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament Saturday, March 9, 2019, in Indian Wells, Calif.

AYUYUS

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grabbing 10 rebounds. Blake's teammates backed him up in the rematch with the Manta Rays with Henry Aguon and J.D Magofna adding and 11 points, respectively.

Rafael Ordona had 28 points to lead Saipan Southern, while Ervin Villarin netted 10. The two Manta Rays failed to get the help they needed from their teammates, as the Ayuyus effectively clamped down on the defensive end to neutralize their foes.

In other results last Friday, Grace Christian Academy ended its four-game losing skid after outclassing Agape Christian School 2, 35-17, at the Eagles' court in Navy Hill.

Torchbearers 2 clung to a one-point advantage by halftime, but ceded the lead after GCA went on a 25-7 scoring run in the second half

Steven Balakrishna led the Eagles with his 11 points, while Seung Jun Baek and Ryan Choi chipped in 9 and 7 markers, respectively. Alex Kim, Marcky Masilungan, Keoni Yarofalir, and Spencer Palacios also hit the board for GCA.

The Eagles now have a 3-6 mark for sixth place, while Agape 2 fell to a 0-9 card.

Meanwhile, Agape will be hosting a double-header today, with the Lady Torchbearers colliding against the Lady Eagles at 3:30pm and ACS 1 battling GCA at 4:30pm. Over at the Koblerville Gymnasium, MCS 1 will be facing Kagman at 3:30pm.

KHS 80—Blake 37, Aguon 13, Magofna 11, Blas 5, Sacdalan 5, Lifoifoi 3, Mustafa Augustino 2, Quitano 2. Jeremiah 2.

SSHS 68—Ordona 28, Villarin 10, Contreras 6, Ichihara 5, Sabangan 5, Perez 4, Deleon Guererro 4, Magno 3, Matalog 3

Scoring by quarters: 22-19, 40-34, 61-47, 80-60.

GCA 35—Balakrishna 11, Baek 9, Choi 7, Kim 2, Masilungan 2, Palacios 2, Yarofalir 2.

ACS 2 17—Dai 9, Qi 4, Fu 2, Joel 2.

Scoring by quarters: 6-10, 10-11, 20-15, 35-17.

Falcons join three-way tie for lead

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

The Falcons soared past the Braves after just four innings, 21-4, in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

With the victory, the Falcons forced a three-way tie for the lead, as they matched the 3-2 records of the Braves and Blue Jays. The deadlock came with just a week left in the regular season.

The Falcons scored at a blistering rate right from the opening inning and neutralized the Braves' hitters, leaving the latter with no choice but to raise the white flag early. After three complete innings, the Falcons were way ahead, 19-0. The victors had seven runs apiece in the first two innings and five in the third to put the game out of the Braves' reach.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

The Falcons' Antonio Norita hits his target during their game against the Braves in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The Braves finally ended their silence in the fourth inning, but failed to muster the needed runs to extend the game and prevent the Falcons from securing the win via 10-run mercy rule.

Dung Maratita, Kobe Lifoifoi, Ping Norita, Tanchu Norita, and Patricio Blas scored three runs apiece for the Falcons, while Dennis Cabrera, Nesh Nakamura, and Baby Rangel each crossed home plate twice.

In the other boys game, the Blue Jays were awarded with the outright victory after the Ayuyus forfeited for the second week in a row and dropped out of the league. According to league organizer, Bruce Norita, tournament rules state that a team must step out of competition after forfeiting two matches.

Now down to three teams, the boys slow-pitch division will have its last regular season game on March 16, while the playoff and championship rounds are set for March 23 and 30, respectively.

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ond behind Japan's Natsuko Muramatsu (3:28:25). Heather Taylor and Sakiko Eda were the two other Saipan residents to make it to the Top 6 overall with the former recording a third-best 3:42:39 and the latter logging 3:48:20 (fifth best in the division). Guam's Dianne Marie Sapida (3:41:17) and Japan's Risa Yoshida (3:53:17) rounded out the Top 6, who received plaques and cash prizes during the awards ceremony held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Saturday night.

The Marianas Visitors Authority, which organized the race, also recognized the top placers in various age groups, awarding them with medals besides the ones for finishers

In the 16 to 19 division, Agape Christian School runners Chenxuan Yang and Irish He Zhang were the winners after clocking in at 4:47:34 and 7:05:12. Other top finishers in their age groups were 20 to 29's Naoki Sakamoto (3:12:48) and Haeran Gwon (4:22:39), 30 to 39's Tiantian Wang (3:21:11) and Xinli Zhang (4:54:31), 40 to 49's Seiji Adahi (3:03:49) and Tinian Kimberly King-Hinds (4:09:15), 50 to 59's Jongboum Choi (3:21:265) and Yaling Zhu (4:22:31), and over 60's Sheguo Wang (3:43:35).

Meanwhile, in the half marathon event, former Saipan resident Mieko Carey managed to barge into the Top 6 after submitting 1:45:03. She finished fifth behind Saipan's Noriko Jim (1:45:01), while China's Jia Yang ruled the event after checking in at 1:25:40. China's Wu Yang Fei (1:33:06), Korea's Sunok Hwang (1:33:31), and China's Zhang Yongbo (1:39:28) completed the Top 6.

In the men's field, the first placer is also from China with 22-year-old You Jun Jie finishing the 21K race in 1:16:34. Jie made it to the finish line just four seconds ahead of Japan's Fenta Saito (1:16:38), while China's Yunfeng Huang (1:17:47) and Xiao Yu Sun (1:24:13) and Japan's Akinori Tachibana (1:19:17) and Masashi Saito (1:20:16) rounded out the Top 6.

The half marathon race also started and ended at AMP with a turnaround point at PIC.

GARAPAN

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a banked shot, while Mario Torres also nailed a looper with less than 20 seconds left in Game 2. Garapan faltered in its next offensive set, keeping San Vicente 2's hopes alive. Torres then had a chance to send the game in overtime, as he was left open for a jumper from the baseline, but overshot his mark. Garapan got the rebound and dribbled the clock away to secure the win and the championship.

The Mallards had to prevail against San Vicente 2 twice in the finals after the Canaries won, 5-4, in the winner's bracket semis. Garapan went on to earn a rematch against San Vicente 2 after outclassing San Vicente 1, 9-6, in the loser's bracket semis.

Meanwhile, William S. Reyes Elementary School also fielded teams (three) in last Saturday's double-elimination playoffs, but lost in the early rounds. WSR 3 was the best finisher among the three squads, as it made it all the way to the third round before bowing to San Vicente 1.

Raiders to acquire Brown from Steelers

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Japanese conquer Saipan Marathon

SAIPAN MARATHON 2019

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Japanese runners dominated the men's division of last Saturday's 2019 Saipan Marathon, while three CNMI residents made it to the podium in the women's field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Japanese Yoshiyuki Ono celebrates his first place finish in last Saturday's 2019 Saipan Marathon.

Forty-year-old Yoshiyuki Ono proved that age is just a number, as he led the finishers in the full marathon event after clocking in at 2:38:32. He was the oldest among the Top 6 overall finishers in the men's division of the race that started and ended at the American Memorial Park with turnaround points at Banzai Cliff in Marpi up north and Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio down south.

Ono completed the longest race of the day more than a minute ahead of compatriot and 32-year-old Taku Fujiwara, who checked in at 2:39:39. Two other Japanese runners made it to the Top 6. Twenty-six-year-old Seiji Shiroki and 22-year-old Satoshi Endo were ranked sixth and fifth after finishing the 42K event in 2:59:43 and 3:00:14, respectively. Meisong Ji, an 18-year-old runner from China, placed third after timing in at 2:44:13, while 33-year-old Ryan Matienzo of Guam came in at fourth following his time of 2:44:47.

In the women's division, Saipan resident Kaylee Heath was the fastest among the host's runners after registering 3:32:29 and finished sec-

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Ayuyus seize No. 1 spot from Mantas

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Kagman High School's Dean Blake picks up the rebound during a game against Saipan International School last week in the CCOPSA caging at the SIS court in As Lito.

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Kagman High School dislodged Saipan Southern High School from the top spot in the team standings in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League after cruising to an 80-68 victory last Friday at Koblerville Gymnasium.

The Ayuyus caught fire in the second half, unloading 40 points to scorch the Manta Rays by double digits. Kagman held single-digit advantages after the first two quarters—22-19 and 40-34—before they upped the ante in the second half to grab the division lead. Kagman now has an 8-1 record, while Saipan Southern absorbed its first loss, dropping to a 7-1 slate.

The Ayuyus approached last weekend's match with a chip on their shoulder, as their only loss of the season was against the Manta Rays.

"It feels great that we redeemed ourselves after our first loss against SSHS in [our home court] in Kagman. Due to the loss against Southern, I knew that we had to step up our game and do better," captain Dean Blake said. "I gave it my all and I'm glad that the effort didn't go to waste. I couldn't have done it without my teammates though."

Blake—the Ayuyus' starting center—carried his team to victory with an outstanding performance on both ends of the floor. He had a double-double, scoring 37 points and

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Garapan rules elementary caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Garapan Elementary School outlasted San Vicente Elementary School 2 twice in the championship round to clinch the title in the Public School System Interscholastic Co-ed 4x4 Basketball Tournament held last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Garapan won both games in the finals in similar scores, 4-3, to top the two-weekend competition.

No most valuable player was selected in the tournament, but if there was, the Mallards' Jayvan Johnny would have been the hands down choice. The Garapan student showed superior basketball skills among the players that competed in the tournament, wowing the crowd with his crossover dribbling skills, daredevil drives, and impressive shooting touch. He scored most of Garapan's points in the entire competition, including 6 of their 8 markers in the two games in the finals.

In Game 1, after San Vicente's Kian Helgen knotted the count at 3-3, Johnny's short jumper iced it for Garapan. Helgen attempted to tie the match anew with the clock ticking. His shot went in, but only after the final buzzer had already sounded.

The Game 1 win kept Garapan in the race for the title against San Vicente 2, which received a twice-to-beat advantage after downing the Mallards in the winner's bracket semis earlier, 6-5.

Then in Game 2, Helgen put San Vicente 2 on the board with his free throw conversion, but the Canaries' stay at the driver's seat was short-lived, as Johnny put on a show anew. He also hit a free throw and then scored two more points and an assist to Marvin Santos for their 4-1 advantage.

Down, but definitely not out, San Vicente went for the final push in a bid to beat Garapan. Helgen scored off

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Garapan Elementary School's Jayvan Johnny escapes past his defenders for an easy layup during their semis game against San Vicente 2 in the Public School System Interscholastic Co-ed 4x4 Basketball Tournament held last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.